

## FRANCIS MARION CLUB IS TO GIVE CHRISTMAS PARTY

### Group Will Sponsor Annual Event For Needy Children Of This Community.

The Francis Marion club has announced preliminary plans for a children's Christmas party to be held in the Community building here Friday night, December 20. Other civic clubs of Marion are assisting in the collection of toys which will be repaired before the party and distributed to poor, children of the county.

Any persons in McDowell having old toys they would like to contribute for the party have been requested to inform members of the Girl Scouts, Kiwanis club, the Junior Woman's club or the Francis Marion club.

The Christmas party is an annual event sponsored by the Francis Marion club for the children of this community who might not otherwise receive the things which all children expect and associate with Christmas. The party will provide these children with a night of fun and carry out the slogan which the sponsor has adopted, "the children must be happy this Christmas."

Children to be invited to the party will not be restricted because of age limits but guests of the Francis Marion club will be children who will benefit most from the party. Arrangements for the party are under the direction of Joe Noyes.

In connection with entertainments to be held here during the Christmas season for poor children the Marion Theatre will on December 14 have a benefit movie at 10:30 in the morning. All children between the ages of one through 12 will be admitted to the show for five cents. The proceeds of the movie will be used to help finance the Francis Marion Christmas party. The picture will be "Little Orphan Annie."

Last year's Christmas party of the Francis Marion club was attended by approximately 200 children. Efforts of members of the sponsoring clubs are being directed to provide a larger party this year. The full cooperation of the public in providing toys has been requested to carry out the program.

### LICENSE TAGS GO ON SALE ON NOVEMBER 30

License tags for trucks and automobiles will go on sale at the local Carolina Motor Club office in the Community building here on Saturday, November 30, it was announced this week.

The announcement was made in the state last week that truck tags would not go on sale Saturday because of limited supplies of metal used in the plates, but the local office has received approximately 800 truck tags and these will go on sale at the scheduled date.

Applicants for license tags must have on their persons regulation pocket cards sent out by the state. Some 700,000 of the cards have been mailed out in North Carolina recently.

Walter J. Cartier, manager of the local office of the Carolina Motor Club, has announced that checks will not be taken in payment for tags and applicants must have in their possession the pocket cards. The local Motor Club office serves McDowell and four other adjoining counties.

### MEAT CANNING IS TO BE SHOWN IN COUNTY

A meat canning demonstration will be held at the home of Mrs. W. C. McIver Tuesday morning, December 3, at 10:00 o'clock, announced Miss Jean Steele, county home demonstration agent, this week. The demonstration will be under the direction of D. E. Hall, a representative of the Burpee Canning Company, who will show farm women of the county how to can in tins.

Mr. Hall will test cookers and their gauges for women who desire to have their canning equipment gone over.

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF COUNTY ENLARGED

Additional appointments to the McDowell advisory committee to assist registrants under the Selective Service act in filling out questionnaires were made by the county draft board here last week.

Members of the committee will assist registered men in filling out the forms only in cases where help is needed, registrants not being required to consult any member of the committee unless for assistance.

The advisory committee for Marion was appointed two weeks ago. Additional members who were appointed last week in different parts of the county are as follows: T. V. Ellis, Clinchfield; J. F. Parker, East Marion; Thomas W. Stacy, Nebo; Charles L. Norwood, Nealsville; H. R. Early, S. F. Mauney and O. D. Haynes of Old Fort.

The Marion advisory committee is composed of Roy W. Davis, chairman, Zeno Martin, C. C. Bolch, Hugh Conley, Paul O. Nafe, Albert Neal, Hugh F. Beam, Guy S. Kirby, Jr., E. P. Dameron, Mrs. Fred Bolch, William F. Grant, Hiram Bishop, Jr., J. E. Neal, Jr., G. F. Washburn, W. D. Lonon, Paul J. Story, W. C. Chambers, A. H. Mitchem, E. A. Morgan, U. E. Cross, G. W. Giles, D. F. Giles, S. E. Whitten, Ralph Tate and Jack Ballew.

### CONTEST TO BE HELD ON HOME DECORATION

A home lighting contest will be conducted in Marion during the Christmas season by the merchants' division of the McDowell Chamber of Commerce, it was announced here this week.

According to plans outlined here, it is expected that prizes will be awarded in three divisions to Marion residents participating. The winners will be chosen for the best decorated home, the most attractive outside tree or the most attractive doorway.

Judges and committees for the contest are expected to be appointed next week.

## SANTA GREETED BY HUNDREDS ON VISIT HERE

### Parade For Children Opens Christmas Sales Season In Marion; Town Decorated.

Santa Claus made his entrance into Marion last Thursday night to the shouts of hundreds of smiling boys and girls who lined the Main street to get a glimpse of the North Pole visitor for the first time this year.

The merry old gent made his first appearance here at the Community building where a parade in his honor formed. Led by the Marion high school band, followed by many town and county officials, the parade passed down Main street here with Santa greeting hundreds of his little friends from his seat on the back of a car.

The parade halted at the court house entrance. Santa was welcomed to Marion by Ralph Tate, chairman of the committee arranging the parade.

Shaking hands with children, receiving letters, listening to Christmas lists and distributing small gifts, Santa visited with McDowell children for about half an hour before he left for the North Pole. Santa is scheduled to come to Marion again after Thanksgiving and to remain here, visiting local stores, until Christmas.

Marion stores were gaily decorated for the arrival of Santa. Christmas stocks were on display and stores remained open for some time after the parade. After the departure of Santa, hundreds of people flocked to the stores to view and purchase Christmas goods.

The town of Marion was decorated for the arrival of Santa with colored lights strung over the greater part of Main street and parts of East and West Court and West Henderson streets.

The arrival of Santa officially opened the Christmas sales season here and gave hundreds of people the opportunity to realize the advantages of shopping in Marion.

## Thanksgiving Day

### SILVER LINING OF A CLOUDED YEAR

For three centuries the breaking waves have dashed high on New England's rock-bound coast, since the day when the Pilgrim fathers shot the Indians away from their front door so they could eat turkey and cranberry sauce in peace—and thank the Almighty for another harvest.

They probably added to their Thanksgiving Day prayer their fervent gratitude that they were still unperceived by savage arrowheads, that their skulls were still uncracked by the tomahawk, and that they could comb their long hair without the scalp coming off.

Again today we celebrate Thanksgiving with much of the world either clouded with the black thunderhead of war, or ground under the heel of some grasping tyrant. The activities of the soldiery across the two blessed oceans make us wonder if we have progressed sensibly from arrowheads and tomahawks to tanks and bombers.

As our nation girds to keep our cities and countryside free from blood and destruction, we feel that this Thanksgiving we indeed have REAL reason to be grateful. Let us approach our celebration of this holiday in the courageous hope that we may be men and women enough to keep our country safe. Let our motto be:

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves!

### MARION HIGH LOSES LAST GAME OF SEASON

The Marion high school football squad officially closed its season last Friday night, going down fighting before the Morganton high school Wildcats to the tune of 26 to 9.

The game, played before the largest crowd to witness a Morganton home game this year, gave the Wildcats their twelfth consecutive conference victory this season and gave them a clear title to their second Western Conference championship in a row. Paced by all-state candidate "Smoky" Mack Leonard, the Wildcats proved too strong for the Marion eleven in most departments of the game.

The first quarter was played in Marion territory with Robinson of Marion getting off some wonderful kicks, F. Harris carrying the offense and with Bailey and V. Harris in on numerous defense gems.

Morganton's first touchdown came in the second quarter when Leonard scored after a long drive. The Wildcats led 7-0 at the half.

The Wildcats scored early in the second half. Marion braced later in the half, threatened to score, and gave the Wildcats a scare when Robinson rushed through to block a Morganton punt. Marion received two points for a safety. V. Harris, a little later, sparked a touchdown drive for Marion and placed the score at 13-9.

Morganton's two remaining touchdowns came in the fourth quarter and the scoring ended at 26-9. As the game ended Marion was deep in Morganton territory.

Marion men playing most of the game were Robinson, Good, J. Walker, Hawkins, Washburn, Wall, Stroud, Ayers, Bailey, V. Harris and B. Walker.

### STEPPE IS SPEAKER AT ROTARY MEETING

N. F. Steppe, superintendent of McDowell county schools, was the guest speaker at the regular weekly Rotary club meeting here last Friday. Mr. Steppe spoke on the operation of public schools, explaining the aims of such educational institutions and quoting figures on the actual operation of schools.

The program for the meeting was under the direction of Ralph Tate.

The Friday meeting was the fourth in succession at which there was 100 percent attendance. The members are working for another 100 percent meeting this Friday to set an attendance record in the district.

A pre-Thanksgiving dinner was served to the members last Friday, the turkey feast being arranged by R. C. Spratt.

### VOLUNTEERS MAY MAKE UP DRAFT QUOTA HERE

McDowell's quota of three white men for the December 9 draft is expected to be filled from the first eight men who have volunteered for service, it was announced here this week.

Since the draft registration 48 young men of McDowell have signed for voluntary induction through the local draft office. These men, if found eligible, will be placed first on the draft list for the county.

Physical examinations of draftees was begun here Tuesday by Dr. J. B. Johnson of Old Fort and the first three men qualifying will be sent to Fort Bragg on December 9.

According to Mrs. C. S. Finley, who has been named principal clerk at the draft office, succeeding her husband who is suffering ill health, questionnaires have been given to the 48 volunteers and mailed to 198 others whose names came first in this county in the order of the national lottery.

The eight young men from whom the first draft quota for the county will be drawn are: Edgar G. Hollifield, Route 3, Marion; James B. Burnette, Marion; Arlie Junior Davis, East Marion; Earl B. Silver, Marion; Jack L. Gibbs, Marion; Joe E. McKinney, Marion; Bill C. McIntosh, Marion; and Melvin Good, Marion, Route 3.

### SAFETY GROUP FORMED AT LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL

A Junior Safety Council has been organized in the Marion Central school under the direction of H. C. Holland, principal, and the P. T. A. safety chairman. The following officers have been elected: President, Ralph Alexander; vice-president, J. Robinson; secretary, Kirby Rader; treasurer, Wayne Jimerson.

The main activity of this Safety Council will be the organization of a School Boy Patrol. The boys on duty will wear National Standard equipment including the Sam Browne belts, badges and arm bands.

Their duty will be to see that pupils use the cross-walks and that they wait and watch for the traffic signals. School Boy Patrols do not direct vehicular traffic; their place is on the curb to direct pedestrian traffic. They will be trained to know what to do in case of emergency or accident. They will set to the younger children an example of caution and use their influence to discourage the taking of foolish risks, Mr. Holland stated.

This group of boys will be trained by Chief of Police L. W. Erwin. After a period of training a captain, first lieutenant and second lieutenant will be appointed.

### RAT CONTROL PROGRAM TO BEGIN HERE FRIDAY

The three-day rat eradication campaign for Marion and McDowell county, originally planned for the first of this week, will be conducted in Marion Friday and Saturday and in Old Fort on Monday, announced County Agent S. L. Homewood, who arranged the drive.

The campaign will be under the direction of L. C. Whitehead, district agent of the state division of predator and rodent control, and the attempt will be made to cover the county thoroughly in the drive to make the control of rodents effective.

Bait to be used during the campaign may be secured at the local office of the county agent. There will be a small charge to cover cost of preparation.

The campaign is receiving the full support of the Marion Kiwanis club and all residents of McDowell have been asked to join with the director and Mr. Homewood in the eradication of rats which each year, directly or indirectly, cost home and property owners great sums of money and endanger their health.

### COUNTY TO OBSERVE THANKSGIVING NOV. 28

Thanksgiving will be observed by practically all business firms of McDowell Thursday. Marion stores, with the exception of drug concerns will be closed for the day. Both local banks will be closed. Business in general is to give way to turkey, family get-togethers and football games.

There will be no city delivery of mail from the Marion post office and service windows will be closed for the day. Regular rural delivery service will be continued as usual.

Thanksgiving holidays were begun in Marion city schools today, Wednesday, at noon. County schools continued to operate through today, but they will be closed Thursday and Friday. All students will return to their regular classes Monday morning.

## RED CROSS ROLL CALL CONDUCTED IN THIS COUNTY

### Collections Amount To Over \$400; Drive Expected To Surpass Last Year's.

Collections in the annual Red Cross roll call in McDowell county have passed the \$400 mark and it is expected that before the drive is completed last year's quota of \$600 will be passed, stated Oliver Cross, chairman of the roll call, this week.

The drive was officially begun here Tuesday of last week when workers started the membership campaign in all parts of the county. Since Tuesday, the town of Marion, the Cross Mill section and a part of West Marion have been covered rather intensively by workers, said Mr. Cross, and it is expected that the roll call will be completed in all parts of the county in the near future.

The membership campaign will be conducted in the city schools under the direction of Hugh F. Beam, superintendent, and will begin among the children this week. Directing the roll call in various parts of the county are: Miss Ruth Greenlee at Clinchfield, Elizabeth and Mary Virginia Copeland at East Marion, Mrs. P. H. Mashburn at Old Fort, and Bill Lonon at Cross Mills.

Workers who have aided in the roll call in Marion are: Mrs. Mary B. Goldsmith, Mrs. Fred Stretman, Mrs. Walker Blanton, Mrs. R. B. Crisp, Mrs. Robert Smith, Miss Elizabeth Neal, Mrs. S. R. Cross, Miss Minyhil Davis, Mrs. Fletcher Shoemaker, Mrs. Jack James, Mrs. Joe Padgett, Mrs. G. L. Conley, Mrs. Joe Noyes, Mrs. Hazel McMahan, Mrs. Vernon T. Eckerd, Mrs. Charley Smith and Mrs. William Wilkinson.

Memberships may be secured at the Marion Industrial Bank by residents of the county who have not joined the Red Cross.

Advertising, as we see it, is the cheapest salesman that a business can employ.

## JURY VERDICT IN DAMAGE SUIT SET ASIDE BY JUDGE

### Attorneys For Plaintiff State \$100,000 Granted By McDowell Jury Is Excessive.

Judge Wilson Warlick, at a hearing held in Newton last Saturday, set aside the verdict of the McDowell county grand jury which awarded \$100,000 damages to John Yancey and the W. W. Guy estate for alleged destruction of property in building the scenic highway across orchard property lying in this county.

Charles Ross, counsel for the State Highway Commission, defendant in the case, argued that the amount granted by the jury was excessive, that the property was valued at only \$35,000 in 1935 and that it was on the tax books of McDowell county for only \$11,000.

In the trial here plaintiffs in the case asked damages up to \$250,000 against the Highway Commission. Witnesses for the plaintiffs estimated damages to the orchards as high as \$245,000. Defense witnesses gave estimates of damages as low as \$20,000. A jury of view had previously recommended a settlement of \$75,000.

At the conclusion of the trial here, Judge Warlick took under advisement the motion of defense counsel Charles Ross that the \$100,000 verdict be set aside.

Former Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus represented the plaintiffs at the hearing in Newton. Robert W. Proctor, of Marion, was also an attorney for the plaintiffs. Defense attorneys were Mr. Ross, E. A. Gardner, and D. F. Giles of Marion.

### CHRISTMAS SEAL SALE TO BEGIN HERE FRIDAY

Marion has received its allotment of campaign material in preparation for the annual Christmas Seal campaign and Mrs. Robert W. Proctor has been named general chairman of the sale which opens Friday, November 29, and extends through Christmas, it was announced this week.

The sale is sponsored each year by the Parent-Teacher Association of Marion high school and the funds are used in preventive and remedial health work among children.

The seals, bright and colorful, this year will give a decorative touch to any letters or packages, but what is more important, they help to fight tuberculosis.

Other local ladies who will assist Mrs. Proctor in the seal sale are members of the ways and means committee of the P.T.A. They are: Mrs. R. B. Crisp, Mrs. W. W. Neal, Jr., Mrs. Eugene Cross, Jr., Mrs. A. S. Bradford, Mrs. G. B. Justice and Mrs. J. W. Pless, Jr.

### CLINCHFIELD PTA TO AID UNDERPRIVILEGED

Members of the Clinchfield Parent Teacher Association voted at their regular meeting last Thursday to aid underprivileged children in securing glasses. The meeting was under the direction of Mrs. C. K. Guthrie, president of the Association.

Rev. M. C. Lyerly, pastor of the Clinchfield Presbyterian church, addressed the group on the theme, "Thanksgiving in 1940."

### ECONOMICS STUDENTS WILL BE REGISTERED

Miss Jean Steele, McDowell home demonstration agent, has been requested by the service committee of the North Carolina Home Economics Association to register all people in this county having two years or more training in home economics. A directory for North Carolina is being prepared by the state committee which is asking the cooperation of county demonstration agents.

### DEACONS ELECTED AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

H. F. Beam, J. L. Gourley and E. R. Keeter were elected deacons of the First Presbyterian church last Sunday morning. They succeeded David Hervey, C. A. Harris and W. L. Morris, retiring deacons.