

# THE MARION PROGRESS

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

ESTABLISHED 1896

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1948

VOLUME 53—NO. 20

## Caplan Attends All Meetings Of McDowell County Commissioners For The Past Fourteen Years

I. L. Caplan, county commissioner for 14 years including 12 years as chairman of the Board, completed a perfect attendance record when he attended a special meeting of the commissioners here Tuesday. Throughout the 14 years he has never missed a meeting.

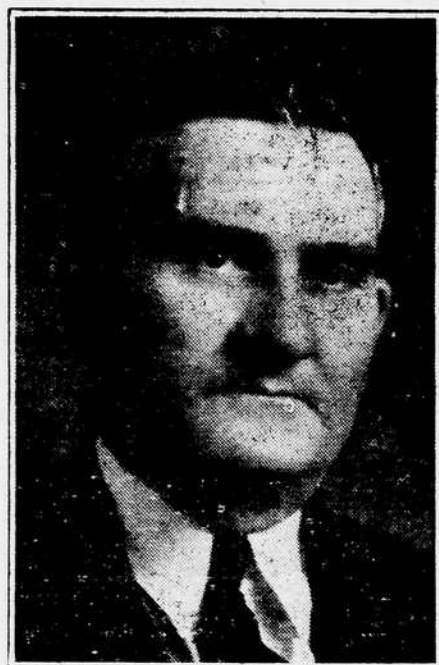
When Caplan began his term of office the net debt for the county stood at approximately \$1,300,000. Today the net debt is \$200,000 notwithstanding the fact that the tax rate has been reduced and last year was reduced to \$1.00 on the hundred dollar valuation. McDowell county is one of the top four counties in the state in its financial standing.

Caplan has the longest record known for holding a county office. During his term of office every school in the county has been included in some kind of building program, he said.

The Home Demonstration club work was one of the outstanding improvements launched while he was chairman and a county agent was employed to organize and supervise the work. In appreciation of his co-operation, the members of the Home Demonstration clubs recently presented him with a fountain pen.

Other improvements included the founding of the County Health Unit. The Florence Thomas Memorial Library was taken over and supported by the county, state and town, permitting a substantial increase in services, improved quarters and employing the services of a full-time librarian. One of the first additions to the library was the purchase of the bookmobile by the county.

The work of the County Farm Agent has shown a steady increase and farmers are given more assistance today than at any time in the history of the county. The Agent (Continued on last page)



I. L. CAPLAN

## Friendship Train Drive Launched, Response Good

A good response from the people of McDowell county is being made to the Friendship Train movement organized in McDowell County as a unit of a state organization to provide food for hungry children in several European nations, which have not as yet recovered from the ravages of the recent world war, according to an announcement made by local officials.

A quota of one carload lot of food has been set for McDowell county. The slogan "A Bushel of Corn or a Bushel of Soy Beans from every Farm in McDowell County" has been set as a goal for the Friendship Train. The various schools of the county have agreed to accept donations of corn, soy beans, or other staple farm products, which will be transported to Marion for shipping. If you have not already made your contribution, you are requested to do so today or tomorrow. Send your contributions to the nearest school in your community.

The Friendship Train is an organization sponsored largely by the Protestant churches of our community. The churches of Marion and Old Fort will be asked to make cash contributions to defray shipping charges, and if necessary, to purchase grain to meet our quota in reaching a carload lot of food. McDowell county's section of the Friendship Train will leave Marion for Norfolk, Virginia, the port of embarkation, on or about December 11.

## Mrs. J. H. L. Miller Elected President Of Welfare District

Mrs. J. H. L. Miller, chairman of the McDowell County Welfare Board, was elected president of the Western Welfare District of North Carolina and Mrs. D. N. Lonon, county welfare superintendent, was elected secretary of the district at a meeting held in Asheville November 30.

Others from this county attending the meeting were: Pat Davis, president of the Marion Rotary club; Mrs. S. R. Perkins, president of the Marion Junior Woman's club; Mrs. Sam Yancey, president of the Marion Parent-Teacher association; Mrs. Albert Shifflet, president of the Old Fort Parent-Teacher association, and Mrs. Sara Margaret Giles, child welfare worker.

## Dr. McMurray To Preach At Conley Memorial

Dr. C. W. McMurray, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, will preach at the Conley Memorial Presbyterian church at 7:30 o'clock Sunday evening, December 4, it is announced this week.

## Jail Breakers Return to Cells

William Twitty and Willie Lou Black, who broke jail here last Saturday morning are back in their cells, according to a statement yesterday morning by Sheriff C. M. Pool.

The two men were arrested two weeks ago in connection with property reported missing at the First Methodist church here. A typewriter and movie projector reported missing were recovered soon afterwards by Chief of Police D. W. Smith. The third item, a wire recorder was recovered last week.

Police sighed with relief, and then—

Last Saturday morning the men were missing from the county jail. Sheriff Pool said a portion of the overhead bars in the jail had been removed with a hack saw. The break was discovered by the cook when he began serving lunch.

Sunday morning the men returned and surrendered themselves.

## Runge Addresses Marion Kiwanians On Christmas Customs

R. W. Perkins, program chairman of the Marion Kiwanis club, presented as guest speaker Reverend Edward G. Runge, pastor of the First Lutheran Church of Asheville, at the weekly meeting of the Kiwanis club held in the community building Tuesday evening.

The speaker used as his topic, "The Christmas Festival", and discussed therewith various customs and practices in connection with the Christmas festival as it is observed in different sections of this country and in some foreign territories.

In a very interesting and instructive manner, the speaker traced many legends of various customs observed at Christmas time. Among the customs he traced were: the use of fireworks, mistletoe, the burning of the Yule log, the Christmas tree, and Santa Claus.

Announcement was made that the second annual Kiwanis minstrel show would be staged at the Marion High School auditorium tonight and tomorrow night. The public is cordially invited to attend these programs and enjoy the fun and songs presented by members of the Kiwanis club.

## Marion P. T. A. To Have Meeting Next Tuesday

The Marion Parent-Teacher association will hold its December meeting at 8 p. m., Tuesday, December 7, in the school auditorium, Mrs. P. J. Story, publicity chairman, announced this week.

Parents are asked to note that this meeting will be limited to one hour to make it possible for more parents to attend.

The program will feature a holiday theme with carols by the Glee club and a Christmas reading by C. C. Elledge, principal.

A movie will be given for the children while their parents are attending the meeting.

Prior to the P. T. A. meeting, the high school room representatives and teachers will meet at 7:15 in the room just at the right of the auditorium on the first floor. They will be dismissed in time for the regular P. T. A. meeting.

## CHRISTMAS SEAL SALE PAYMENTS TOTAL \$425

The Christmas Seal Committee of the Marion Junior Woman's club had received \$425 from the sale of seals by Tuesday noon of this week, Mrs. P. T. Hollis, chairman, reported.

Those who receive seals through the mails are asked to co-operate in helping McDowell county reach its \$1200 goal by returning payments promptly.

Total number of farm workers in Britain has increased by 12,000 in the past 12 months.

## MARION'S SHOPPING SEASON OPENED WITH FESTIVE CHRISTMAS PARADE



F. H. JETER

## Rotary Club Farmers' Night Set For Dec. 10

Frank Hamilton Jeter, of Raleigh, will be guest speaker at the Marion Rotary Club's Annual Farmers' Night observance to be held at 7 p. m., Friday, December 10.

The speaker, an agricultural editor, is a native of Santuck, S. C. and received his B.S. degree in Agriculture at Clemson Agricultural College. He has been awarded many blue ribbons by the Association of Agriculture Editors for agricultural writing and last June was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by Clemson College.

## Marion Hunters Kill Two Deer And One Bear

Nine nimrods killed buck and deer and one killed a bear during yesterday's hunting in Pisgah National Forest.

The bear, weighing 120 pounds, was killed by David E. Burnett of Marion. Hunters killing deer are listed with weights and antler points of their kills:

Ola G. Martin of Spartanburg, S. C., 122 pounds, seven points.

William C. Maney of Asheville, 80 pounds, spike.

Clarence Wilkie of Hendersonville, 56 pounds, spike.

M. M. Driskill of Woodway, Va., 100 pounds, four points.

Reuben Vernon Woody of Candler, 68 pounds, six points.

C. M. Pool of Marion, 108 pounds, three points.

E. D. Hicks of Marion, 167 pounds, eight points.

L. E. Biggerstaff of Bostic, 152 pounds, eight points.

W. Andrew Cloer of Hayesville, 93 pounds, spike.

Hunting will be concluded in the Davidson River section of the forest today and will move to the Mills River section tomorrow.

## St. Matthew's To Have Rehearsal

The Sunday School of St. Matthew's Lutheran church will have its rehearsal of the Christmas program on Sunday afternoon at 2:30. The teachers of the Sunday school will present their children in the separate parts of the program. The teachers are Rev. Charles Frenzel, Mrs. Poly Fox, Mrs. Richard Shaw, Poly Fox, Miss Lois Finley, Mrs. Vernon Eckerd, and Mrs. L. M. Hemphill.

The Christmas program will be presented to the public on the Sunday before Christmas, December 19, at 7:30. The Sunday school teachers will meet this evening at the Hut.

There are more than 9,000 square miles in the mountain region of North Carolina.

## JUNIOR WOMEN WIN FLOAT CONTEST FIRESTONE WINDOW JUDGED BEST

Marion's biggest celebration since V.-J Day was held Monday when crowds thronged the streets to welcome Santa Claus to the first Christmas parade ever held here.

Long before the event was scheduled to begin, the streets were packed and truckloads of school children were anxiously awaiting the zero hour.

## Santa To Visit Marion Saturdays Till Xmas

Santa Claus enjoyed himself here so much last Monday that he has promised to return every Saturday from now until Christmas.

He said the streets were crowded and he missed seeing many of his friends here in Marion. He will be on the streets and in stores Saturdays from now until Christmas.

## PAPER BOWL FOOTBALL GAME SET FOR SATURDAY

Canton.—When the Waynesville Mountaineers and the Marion High Rippers get together in Canton's first annual Paper Bowl game, at Black Bear Memorial stadium here Saturday afternoon, December 4, it will be a classic gridiron struggle between a powerful offense and a stubborn defense.

When Marion's Rippers wound up their regular season with a 26-14 victory over Forest City last week they had run up a total of 289 points to become the highest scoring high school team in Western North Carolina, and established themselves as a top power in the Western Conference despite a slow start in early games.

And when Waynesville's Mountaineers shut out Canton 32-0 in their finale last week they completed the best defensive record of any high school eleven in W.N.C. They have allowed only 24 points to opponents in nine games while winning the Blue Ridge conference championship. So it looks like a case of the "irresistible force" meeting the "immovable object" in the Paper Bowl clash.

An added feature of the Paper Bowl program that will be of great interest to W.N.C. football fans will be the appearance of All-

(Continued on last page)

## Countywide Meeting Demonstration Clubs

A cake demonstration and bazaar for all Home Demonstration club members in the county will be held in the office of Miss Jean Steele, county agent, at 2 p. m., Tuesday, December 7.

The cake making demonstration will be given by Miss Rita Dubois, foods and nutrition specialist of the state extension service.

Club members are asked to bring articles they have made to be sold at a bazaar which will follow the demonstration.

## Padgett Captures His 125th Still

A. A. Padgett, constable of Crooked Creek township, ended his active duties as constable Thanksgiving Day when he captured his 125th still. This was a steam outfit of 50 gallon capacity.

He was alone when he destroyed the still and five barrels of mash in the Bethlehem community. Padgett has completed 10 years of service as a constable.

Merchants nervously added finishing touches to the window displays up until the moment when music from the Marion High School band heralded the approach of the parade. Santa brought up the rear of the procession tossing bags of candy out into the crowd.

The final event was a concert given by the band on the court house lawn.

Other events scheduled to take place on the Court House lawn had to be cancelled due to the public address system being put out of commission by the surging crowd around it. A program had been planned with music by the Marion High School band, community singing led by Rev. M. O. Owens, greetings by Santa Claus to the people of the town and county, and a welcome by the Merchants Association and a request that people come into the individual stores and inspect the displays of merchandise on sale. The stores were to remain open until 7 p. m. for this purpose.

R. W. Perkins, president of the Marion Merchants association, said, "I regret that we were unable to carry through with this part of the program, however, due to unavoidable and unforeseen circumstances it was impossible to do so. I also wish to thank those who were to take part in this and to show our appreciation for their willingness to co-operate and make the entire program a success."

The prize winning float sponsored by the Marion Junior Woman's club featured a fireplace and "stockings hung by the chimney with care."

The Firestone Home and Auto Supply won the window display contest. Flickering flames lighted a mantel hung with Christmas stockings.

Santa tossed the last bags of candy from his pack on the court house lawn. Inside some of the bags the recipients found slips of paper inscribed with the name of a local store.

The slips were exchanged at the store for prizes donated by the respective merchant.

The celebration was planned by the Marion Merchants association as a formal opening to the Christmas shopping season. Stores throughout the town had been decorated in holiday wrappings to welcome Christmas shoppers and prove to them that merchandise stocks in Marion are of a variety and quality to satisfy any and all shoppers.

The merchants planned the event this year on short notice, but with the idea of launching the Christmas parade as an annual event. The stores would then recognize the date set by the Association as the formal opening of the season and could plan to have holiday merchandise on display and stores decorated by that date.

Virtually all Marion stores will remain open Wednesday afternoons from now until Christmas with the exception of grocery stores. The groceries will observe the Wednesday half holiday except on December 22, the Wednesday before Christmas.

