

MARION PROGRESS

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

ESTABLISHED 1896.

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1911.

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GRADED SCHOOL NOTES

Will Adjourn Friday of Next Week for Holidays—Attendance for November.

The following is the report of attendance for the month of November:

	Yearly Enrol.	Monthly Enrol.	Avg. Atten.	Tardies.
First grade	45	44	43	0
Second grade	43	38	36	1
Third grade	43	36	33	5
Fourth grade	34	31	31	2
Fifth grade	39	33	32	0
Sixth grade	33	33	32	0
Seventh grade	16	16	16	2
Eighth grade	29	26	24	1
Ninth grade	17	17	16	0
Tenth grade	8	8	8	2
Total	306	282	272	19

Next week will complete the first half term of the school year, and the school will adjourn Friday for the holidays. The spring term will open Wednesday, January 3, 1912.

There will be no exercises of a public character at the close of the fall term, but each teacher will endeavor to have such exercises in her own grade as will give the children some idea of the spirit of Christmas. All are too busy with reviews, examinations, and the regular work of the school to prepare a formal program.

At the class meeting of the Juniors last Friday the following interesting program was rendered in a very creditable manner:

1. Song, by the class.
2. Debate. Question: Resolved, That the world owes more to navigation than to railroads.
3. Vocal quartette, Ammie Bomar, Thelma Hicks, Hannie Gibbs, and Annie Baber.
4. Declamation, Jack Lonon.
5. Reading, Will Pless.
6. Recitation, Rosa Houck.

Scores of Miners Entombed.

Briceville, Tenn., Dec. 9.—One hundred and fifty-six men, living or dead, is the probable number entombed here tonight as they have been all day, in the great Cross mountain coal mine of the Knoxville Iron Company, according to the count made this afternoon by an official of the United Mine Workers of America. They had entered to begin the day's work when a terrific explosion wrecked the workings.

Three only have come out alive. They had entered a lateral off the main shaft and succeeded in getting into the open before the flames and smoke caught them.

Briceville, Tenn., Dec. 11.—The families of a hundred or more miners entombed in the Cross mountain mine today began to realize there was little chance of ever seeing their loved ones again. At nightfall 22 bodies had been recovered, and more than twenty cross entries to the mine remained to be explored. It will be days before all the entries are penetrated.

Briceville, Tenn., Dec. 12.—Seven additional bodies were brought out of the Cross mountain mine this morning, making a total of 30 dead now recovered.

Judge Ward, of the Superior Court bench, has resigned on account of ill health. The Elizabeth City bar has recommended W. C. Rodman of Washington, N. C., as his successor.

COMMISSIONERS COURT

H. A. Tate Re-elected Chairman and J. L. C. Bird County Attorney—Jurors Drawn.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of County Commissioners at the court house December 4th, the board re-organized by re-electing H. A. Tate chairman for another year. Mr. J. L. C. Bird was also re-elected county attorney for the ensuing year.

William McNeill, Joseph Hensley and Wampler Huskins were appointed road commissioners for Higgins township to fill vacancies caused by the resignation of S. A. Bowman, Baxter Morgan and J. G. Price.

C. C. Burgin was awarded the contract to build a wooden bridge across the Catawba river south of Old Fort, on the John Fortune road, for the sum of \$130.

The board ordered that a special school tax election be held in School District No. 3, Crooked Creek Township, on January 31, and a new registration is ordered for the said election. James M. Gibson was appointed registrar, and J. I. Banning and Stephen Parker judges.

Settlement was made with ex-Sheriff P. H. Mashburn, Wednesday. He was due on finance settlement in January, 1911, the sum of \$25,984.80. He exhibited receipts from N. C. Jones, treasurer, in the sum of \$22,713.58, commission for collecting this sum was \$1137.55, the exemptions, errors and insolvents \$1987.99, and for land sold and bid in for the county \$145.68, making the total of \$25,984.80. Settlement was therefore made in full with Mr. Mashburn, ex-sheriff and tax collector.

The following jurors were drawn for the next term of court which convenes January 22:

FIRST WEEK—J. H. Taylor, L. G. Price, J. F. Banning, J. L. Cowan, B. G. Gettys, M. G. Pendergrass, W. G. Carson, D. N. Walker, T. J. Fortune, S. M. Davis, W. E. Watson, A. W. Gilliam, J. M. Hoyle, H. A. Gibbs, E. A. Rowe, D. M. Sisk, M. J. Harris, T. W. Noblett.

SECOND WEEK—Geo. T. Rhom, A. J. Wilkerson, B. L. Nanney, J. H. Reel, G. L. Lytle, I. A. Stroud, Spurgeon Price, M. C. Sigmon, S. E. Whitten, George Searcy, P. D. Nanney, P. F. Cannon, C. M. Nanney, W. N. Laughridge, J. P. Crawley, W. W. Neal, J. B. Lancaster, B. M. Stepp.

Bethlehem School Notes.

Old Fort, Dec. 12.—We now have 48 on roll. Although the weather is bad new ones keep coming. We are all looking forward to our entertainment with much interest.

Those who are not in school are missing something. They are missing good ball games at play time as well as all that we are learning.

The average attendance for last week and the past two days of this week has been 40. Pretty good, don't you think so? And most of us are little "tots," too.

Last Thursday was "wood cutting day" with us. The boys worked hard at play time and got up a good supply.

The patrons of the school have put several loads of sand on the yard which helps the appearance greatly.

SKELETON OF NEGRO

Found in Woods Near Dysartsville Supposed to be John Allan—Was Murdered.

Saturday, December 9th, Sheriff Laughridge was notified that the skeleton of a man had been found in the Price-Higgins Mountain, between Dysartsville and Glenwood. A trip to the mountain on Sunday confirmed the report. The sheriff found a large number of citizens gathered about the bones, and there were many persons who could identify the clothes as being those of John Allan, a negro well known in the southern part of the county and in Marion. It was very evident that the man had been murdered, the skull being crushed over the left temple, and fractured again over the back of the head.

John Allan, the murdered man, was not mentally strong, but was known everywhere for the money which he carried on his person. He was very much of a miser, and is thought to have had on his person at the time of his death several hundred dollars. That robbery is the cause of the murder is not questioned, because John was an unoffensive, peaceable negro. Physicians who examined the skeleton say that the man must have been murdered about three months or more ago.

Bruce Shade, a colored man, was directed to the scene several days ago by his dogs. Shade lives about half a mile from the place where the body was found, which is a very secluded part of the county, far back in the mountains.

John Allan has, for the last year or more lived with his widowed sister in Rutherford county, but is known to have been in Marion in July, and was very probably murdered on his return to his sister's home in Rutherford county. He was a great walker and such a miser that he rarely ever spent money to ride on the train.

Sheriff Laughridge has no clue at the present, but will spare no pains and time in trying to ferret out the murder.

Nebo School Notes.

Nebo, Dec. 10.—As the time is drawing nearer Christmas we are getting more enthusiastic in the preparation of our entertainment. This entertainment is to be given by the Elizabeth Wiley and Henry Grady literary societies on Thursday night before Christmas, December 21. An admission fee of twenty-five cents will be charged. The proceeds will be used in furnishing the society halls.

The Henry Grady literary society entertained the Elizabeth Wiley last Friday night. The programme was well rendered and enjoyed by all. There is no mistake about it, we have some boys at Nebo that can debate.

Miss Namie McCall spent the latter part of the week at home.

Billie Wilson visited his sister here Sunday.

Miss Mattie Hicks was called home Saturday morning on account of her father's illness.

Byron Conley spent a few hours with his sister Saturday afternoon.

It seemed that Nebo was well represented in Marion Saturday as a number of the dormitory and village people went to do shopping.

COMING TO MARION

Superintendents Select This Place for Meeting of Western Division in September.

The North Carolina Teachers' Assembly, which was held in Raleigh last week, was one of the best assemblies of teachers ever held in North Carolina. It was made up of the departments of education in the State, and will be made an annual meeting, which will be of great impetus to the educational life of the State.

The County Superintendents' Association met in Raleigh at the same time with the Teachers' Assembly. This Association is divided into five districts, McDowell county being in the western district, and it was decided by the superintendents that the western division should convene in Marion next September. The meeting for this district heretofore has always convened in Asheville, and it is quite a compliment to Marion and McDowell county to have this meeting here next year.

This will be the first meeting of this kind ever held in Marion, and every citizen, not only in Marion but in the county, should do everything in their power to make the meeting here pleasant for those attending, and in so doing make it easier to get every convention of this kind to meet here from time to time in the future. Definite plans and announcements for the meetings will be given out to the public before it convenes, and programs will be published.

Old Fort News.

Old Fort, Dec. 13.—The Old Fort brass band gave an oyster supper Saturday night to which the Black Mountain brass band was invited. The supper was well patronized.

One day last week C. G. Vess shot and instantly killed "Old Dan," the beloved dog of Loyd Crawford. The reason Mr. Vess gave for this rash act was that Dan had repeatedly eaten up his pig feet. While Mr. Crawford has the heartfelt sympathy of the town and community Mr. Vess has the approval of most folks, and now sleep on "Old Dan" and take thy rest, and hereafter remember "Jacket" knows best.

J. B. Burgin suffered a light stroke of paralysis Sunday morning. His many friends will be glad to know he is improving, and it is hoped he will soon be out again.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Salisbury are in town visiting friends for a few days.

Miss Cora E. Jaynes, after spending a few days with friends, has gone to Lenoir where she will spend the winter with her brother, W. J. Jaynes.

Allie Burgin spent a part of last week here visiting relatives.

H. T. White was called to Morganton last week by the death of his grandfather.

Dr. and Mrs. T. M. Chaney and little Virginia, spent a couple of days in Asheville last week.

J. H. Blalock was called to Canton this week by the death of his father, Joe Blalock.

Dr. D. M. McIntosh was in Asheville last Friday. RITA.

BUYS CAROLINA LANDS

Government Secures 18,500 Acres in McDowell County for Appalachian Reserve.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 9.—The first purchase of land under the Weeks law authorizing the creation of the Appalachian Forest Reserve was authorized at a meeting of the National Forest Reservation Commission in the office of Secretary of War Stimson, chairman of the Commission, today.

Ten tracts of mountain land, aggregating 18,500 acres in McDowell county, North Carolina, were decided upon by the Commission for purchase. The tracts range from 100 to 10,060 acres in size and are located near Mount Mitchell in the western part of the State, and are declared to be excellent for practical forest work. The price ranges from three to six dollars an acre, the total cost amounting to about \$100,000.

All the tracts are on the watershed of Catawba river, an important tributary of the Wateree river, which with the Congaree, forms the Santee, a stream of much industrial importance, which, with its tributaries, is navigable for 250 miles in South Carolina.

In taking favorable action upon these tracts the commission was unanimous in the conclusion that it had selected one of the most favorable localities of the Southern Appalachian region for the application of the Weeks' law, the purpose of which is the protection and control of the watersheds of navigable streams. Further meetings will be held in the near future to take action upon other tracts already under condition.

Some of the tracts decided upon today are well timbered, some partially cut over and some entirely cut over. With the exception of one tract all are purchased without timber or mineral reservations. On one tract of 3,500 acres the standing timber is reserved by the owners and will be cut under regulations already agreed upon with the Department of Agriculture. These regulations are so framed as to leave upon the ground a considerable stand of young timber and insure its protection from fire.

All of the tracts are contiguous or nearly so and will form an area large enough for administration purposes and for the demonstration of methods of practical forestry in this portion of the Southern Appalachians.

The forest service had made a careful examination and had reported on the character and value of the land and timber. The Geological Survey's report said that Federal control of the lands will prevent excessive soil wastage and erosion which is likely to ensue if such control is not established. The prevention of excessive erosion, it added, will tend to promote and preserve the navigability of the Catawba river, within the watershed of which the district lies.

Other tracts of timber land which have been examined soon will be brought before the commission for consideration.

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