

MARION PROGRESS

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

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LETTER FROM FLORIDA

Mr. J. D. Ledbetter Writes About Things of Interest on His Trip—A Big Fish Story.

Orlando, Fla. Jan. 12, 1912.
EDITOR OF THE PROGRESS:
On Thursday evening before leaving Marion a friend of mine said to me: "When you get to Florida write me a letter, but probably you won't have time to write to all you would like to, so write a letter to THE PROGRESS and we all can hear from you." Now, if you will allow space in your columns I will try to tell of some of the things I have seen that were interesting to me.

The first thing after reaching the middle and lower part of South Carolina that I took special notice of was so many cotton fields that were white with cotton. Some looked as if they had not been picked at all. I was told that the reason for this was that labor was so hard to get. On reaching Savannah, Ga., I saw the long leaf pine and small palms in abundance, also long moss covering the trees along the swamps.

At Jacksonville, Fla., I spent nearly two days. This beautiful city has many of the large palms along its streets, roses and flowers were in bloom around the dwellings and the lawns were as green as if it was summer time.

On reaching St. Augustine (the oldest town in the United States) I found many things of interest. I spent two days in this beautiful town. St. Augustine has two as fine hotels as to be found anywhere—The Alcazar and Ponce De Leon. These two hotels cost several million dollars. I was at the opening of the Ponce De Leon Hotel, Tuesday evening, January 9. A special train from New York brought in the guests and a concert began at 8 p. m. which I enjoyed very much. Many of the old houses which were built back in the fifteenth and sixteenth century are still standing and in use. Some of the business streets are so narrow that they have no sidewalks. These old streets have never been made any wider than they were when first made a few hundred years ago. The sulphur water was something new to me and I don't believe I ever could like the taste or smell of it. While at St. Augustine I made a trip out to the seashore and the alligator farm. This alligator farm contains two thousand alligators, the smallest ones being about six inches long and the largest twelve feet long. At this farm I saw a large sea turtle which measured more than four feet across. I saw a large sun fish which had just been captured and was supposed to weigh fully one thousand pounds. The Florida Times-Union makes the following mention of this fish:

"St. Augustine, Jan. 8.—One of the largest sun fish ever captured in this locality, was taken off South Beach Saturday. The huge fish had gotten too far in shore and became stranded. Unable to get off into deep water, he was easily captured by strollers on the beach. It required the combined efforts of a dozen men to get the fish on dry land. The fish measures ten feet with enormous fins, and it is estimated it weighs fully one thousand pounds."

The wireless telegraph station,

old fort Marion and the Light house are all of interest. I climbed the winding stairs to the top of the light house, 165 feet high, and got a good view of the ocean and country.

After leaving St. Augustine my next stop was at Palatka. It is on the St. Johns river, and the river at this point looks to be a half mile wide. There is nothing of special interest there. It has a population of 4,000 and a large part of the population seems to be negroes.

Orlando is a beautiful town of about six thousand population. Some of the orange groves here are immense. There are orange trees in nearly all the yards. Many of the trees are full of oranges yet and the ground under some of the trees is covered with the yellow fruit going to waste. This is the best section of Florida I have seen so far. It is nice and warm here. The climate is fine for this season of the year. There is a small palm that covers a big part of this country somewhat like broom straw covers places in McDowell.

If you are looking for razor-back hogs, come to Florida. I have seen a number of hogs and all of them are full bred long-nose razor-backs.

The temperature here yesterday and to-day has been from 60 to 65 degrees above zero. The water here is not to be compared with our mountain water in drinking qualities. I still believe Western North Carolina has an ideal climate, even if it is a little cold in winter.

With best wishes to THE PROGRESS and its readers, I am
Very respectfully,
J. D. LEDBETTER.

Won't Do Without It.

Victoria, Tex., Jan. 12, 1912.
Editor PROGRESS,
Marion, N. C.

Dear Sir:—The first snow to reach the gulf coast country in many years is falling here this morning and revived memories of the glorious old Blue Ridge—the "Land of the Sky" and happy days of the long ago—to such an extent that I could not longer deprive myself of the one and only source of communication with the people of McDowell county, and hereby enclose money order for the MARION PROGRESS for another year.

Wishing every one a happy and prosperous New Year, I beg to remain,

yours very truly,
BRUCE M. WHITE.

Greenlee News.

Old Fort, Jan. 15.—Charles W. Mason, Southern Railway Agricultural agent, visited this school last Friday in the interest of the Boys' Corn Club. Ten of our boys joined and we are looking forward to some of them getting a prize.

Spurgeon Walker fell and hurt himself while skating last week. We hope he will soon be able to return to school. Miss Della Williams gave a candy pulling last Friday night which was enjoyed by Misses Mary and Lottie McKoy, Ethel Mackey, Hannie Biddix; Messrs. Edward Burgin, Murray Mackey, Fred Biddix, Gordon McKoy, Thomas Greenlee and Prof. A. T. Ledbetter.

Rev. F. L. Higden, the new Presbyterian minister, preached at Siloam Sunday afternoon.

Tolbert Parker had the misfortune of getting his foot hurt at the saw mill recently.

The weather is bad but we "prophecy" that it will be better next week. But a "prophecy" is not always true.
STUDENT.

MARION LAWYERS WIN

Pless and Winborne Get Verdict of \$2,916 in Case Involving Lawyers' Fees.

Asheville Citizen, 15th.

In the federal court yesterday, the case of Pless and Winborne against D. J. McDonald was finished, the jury having awarded the plaintiff the sum of \$2,916.

The case was taken up in the court Monday morning and has been a very interesting and somewhat unusual one. The plaintiffs, who are members of a law firm, at Marion, alleged that the defendant was due them \$4,000 for fees in cases in which they had appeared for him. He is a railway contractor and alleged that the judgments for which they desired to be paid had been collected by him after the attorneys had ceased to represent him.

It appeared that Pless and Winborne had represented Mr. McDonald in cases against the McArthur Brothers company, the Meadows company, the South and Western Railroad company and the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railroad company.

The case has been a hard fought one by the counsel for both the plaintiff and defendant and a number of lawyers were introduced who testified as to the good character of the plaintiffs. As experts, a number of attorneys who were placed on the witness stand testified that as a contingent fee, the amount being asked by Mr. Pless was not exorbitant but instead was very reasonable, although it was testified that if it had been agreed to pay him a straight fee, the amount would probably not be as large as that which was asked for.

The plaintiffs were represented by Locke Craig, A. Hall Johnston and D. E. Hudgins, while J. C. Martin and Thomas S. Rollins appeared for the defense. Mr. Pless was warmly congratulated by his friends yesterday on winning the suit.

Ross Negro Convicted and Sentenced—Gladden Acquitted.

John Ross has been convicted and sentenced to die February 16 for the murder of John Dixon, the Cleveland county farmer whom the negro brained with an axe on the night of December 12. Ross confessed and said that Frank Gladden, a white man, was with him, that he planned the crime and forced him to take part in it. Gladden, he said, killed Mrs. Dixon.

Frank Gladden, the white man implicated by the confession of the negro John Ross, in the murder of Mr. and Mrs. John Dixon, prominent and wealthy people of Cleveland county, was acquitted by the jury at Shelby Saturday, the twelve men declining to accept the unsupported confession of the negro as evidence sufficient to convict.

The case against Gladden, for murder of Mrs. Dixon, was "not prosed" with leave, as were the cases against the negroes, Hack Ross and his step-son, Cullen Mull, and all were released.

The plant of the F. S. Royster Guano Company, near Tarboro, was completely destroyed by fire Saturday. The loss is estimated at \$100,000.

Teachers' Meeting.

Program of District Teachers' Meeting, to be held at Old Fort, February 10th, 1912.

School music and opening exercises, Misses Della Williams and Marguerite Grant.

Classification and organization, Misses Cora Lou Butt and Maggie Byrd.

How to get the school board to co-operate, Mr. James McCall. Supervision at play time, Mr. A. T. Ledbetter.

The Review, view and review of a history and geography recitation, Mr. G. H. Weaver.

How to gain and hold the confidence of students, Miss Mary Crater and Mr. I. C. Griffin.

Some mistakes in teaching, D. F. Giles.

Bank of Old Fort Names Officers.

The stockholders of the Bank of Old Fort held their annual meeting at Old Fort on January 10. The following officers were re-elected for the ensuing year: L. P. Crawford, president; P. H. Mashburn, vice-president; F. M. Bradley, cashier, and J. S. Bradley, assistant cashier. Directors were elected as follows: L. P. Crawford, P. H. Mashburn, J. L. Burgin, J. S. Bradley and F. M. Bradley.

The report of the cashier showed the bank to be in fine shape, with bright prospects for the year 1912. A dividend of 12 per cent was paid and a goodly amount was placed to the surplus.

Nebo News.

Nebo, Jan. 15.—From our midst Mrs. Sarah Halliourton was called on last evening. Her life has been slowly passing away for the last three months. She was a noble woman and has left many friends. The deceased was 85 years old and the mother of fourteen children, ten of whom survive her. The latter part of her life was spent with her daughter, Mrs. C. M. Hemphill.

Thad Hunter left yesterday for Petersburg, Va., where he has accepted a position.

Misses Eddie Young and Myrtle Brown spent Sunday in Marion.

Arthur Hicks, Jesse and Edwin Corpening spent Saturday and Sunday at their home.

Miss Vara Corpening was shopping in Marion, Saturday.

A number of the dormitory girls are at present out of school on account of measles, but so far it has not broken into our school work very much. We have several more new students in school, among whom are Bert Ledbetter, James Hall, Annie Gibson, Addie Elliott and Della Gibbs.

The Elizabeth Wiley Literary Society invited the Henry Grady Society to attend its meeting last Friday night and the following program was rendered: Song—By Society.

At the roll call each member responded with a quotation from Longfellow.

Duet—Moonlight on the Hudson—Misses Young and L. Lonon.

Recitation—A Naughty Little Girl's View of Life—Miss Daintry Graham.

Quartet—When the Sunset Turns the Ocean Blue to Gold—Misses Wilson, Annis, Beck and Stepp.

Comic Hits—Miss Donnie McGimsey.

Puzzles—Miss Mary Greenlee.

Solo—Pure as Snow—Miss E. Lonon.

Recitation—How the Laure Stakes were Lost—Miss Edna Wells.

Song—Sweet Be Your Dreams—Miss Eva Blair.

Current Events—Miss Ada Brown.

Trio—Roses of Spring—Misses Stacy, Wilson and Kaylor.

Silent Critic—Miss Lillian Lonon.

Song—Meet Me To-night in Dreamland—Misses Cuthbertson, Hix, Paton, Lonon, Conley and Goforth.

Critic's report.

THE CENTRAL HIGHWAY

Reports Are Encouraging all Along the Line—Situation in the Different Counties.

Asheville Citizen, 15th.

In response to letters sent out last month by H. B. Varner, of Lexington, chairman of the Central highway committee, to the trustee of each of the eighteen counties through which the highway will pass, urging that work be completed by May 1, and asking for the exact conditions, encouraging replies have been received from a majority of the trustees.

Writing of conditions in Madison county T. J. Murray, of Marshall, said: "Mars Hill township has already voted \$10,000 in bonds, so they will have a first class road from Asheville to Mars Hill and also a road leading some distance toward Marshall. Hot Springs township will vote \$40,000 in bonds to build a road from the Tennessee line through that township, so that there will only be two townships to vote bonds in order to get the road completed through Madison county, numbers one and three." It is understood that Mars Hill township will begin work as soon as spring opens. Another branch of the highway runs from Asheville by way of Waynesville to the Tennessee line, the same being practically completed.

E. C. Chambers, of Asheville, trustee for Buncombe county wrote as follows: "Buncombe county will have her road completed to the Haywood line by May 1, possibly sooner, and will soon commence with the convict camp at the McDowell county line and complete the road into Asheville. You can depend on Buncombe doing her full share and being ready for the run on May 15."

W. T. Morgan, of Marion, trustee for McDowell county, writes that their roads are very muddy and that really there is little prospect of anything of consequence being done before spring.

E. F. Mumford, manager of the Southern Baptist assembly at Blount, is very much interested in the Central highway and is building a mile of the road from the McDowell county line in the direction of Old Fort.

I. L. Pyatt, who lives in Old Fort township, has also agreed to build a mile of road in that township down the mountain and has his road in pretty fair condition.

The Black Mountain road commissioners have done some work between Blount and Black Mountain.

Some of the counties between Asheville and the seashore have their roads in fairly good shape, and reports of work to be done at an early date are encouraging to those interested in the highway, over which a run will be made in May.

You can't afford to miss this offer. A handsome 42-piece dinner set and THE PROGRESS one year for only \$4.00. The very cheapest kind of ware will cost you more money elsewhere. Why not take advantage of this offer and get the paper a year in addition?

The United States has about 25,000 newspapers.