

MARION PROGRESS

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

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BURKE COUNTY FEUD

Pitts and Hennessee Families Fight Deadly Duel at Glen Alpine—Six Are Victims.

Morganton, Jan. 18.—The bloodiest and most desperate fight this section of the State has ever witnessed is reported from Glen Alpine, a little town six miles from Morganton, tonight, as the result of which six prominent men lie mortally wounded from pistol and knife wounds.

The fight is alleged to have resulted from a feud existing between the Pitts and Hennessee families, which reached its culmination tonight in a pistol and knife duel on the streets of Glen Alpine, which lasted for 30 minutes and in which one after another was shot down or cut to pieces with knives.

Friends of both families rushed to the assistance of their friends, only to find themselves engaged in a bloody conflict and received probably fatal wounds. All the available physicians in Morganton were rushed to the scene and telephone messages state that several of the wounded are being brought to Grace Hospital here.

Sheriff Berry, with a large posse of deputies, left for the scene of the conflict and automobiles are on the way to bring the wounded who are able to be moved to the hospital here.

Telephone messages state that Dr. E. A. Hennessee is shot through the lungs and head and cannot live until midnight, while three other men, Gorman Pitts, Ervin Pitts and Policeman Sam Bennett, are seriously if not fatally shot, and M. N. Hennessee and Abel Pitts are mortally wounded, and others slightly injured.

When revolvers were emptied the desperate fight continued with knives, and men lying weakened in their own blood tried desperately to end the lives of their antagonists.

Three of the wounded men were brought down on train No. 16 to the local hospital. Their condition is serious.

Morganton, Jan. 19.—The desperate fight between the Pitts and Hennessee factions at Glen Alpine last night has been the general subject of conversation here today.

Dr. E. A. Hennessee, who was thought to be dying when brought to Grace Hospital here last night, rallied this morning and was taken to Doctor Long's Sanatorium, at Statesville, on an early train today for treatment. He received four bullet wounds either of which may prove fatal, one being in the chest, in the region of the lungs. In addition to this his jaw bone is broken, both ears are mutilated, right hand shattered and all tendons and muscles on left hand severed. He bears the marks of 10 wounds made with a knife on the scalp and face. His recovery is considered extremely doubtful.

Gorman Pitts was shot just over the liver and slashed up generally, and Ervin Pitts was stabbed in one lung, shot in the body and received a slight fracture of the skull from a blow in the hands of one of his assailants. Both of these men are in Grace Hospital, and their condition is very grave, especially the latter.

Abel Pitts escaped with three knife wounds, the one under the arm being the most serious.

It was first reported that M. N. Hennessee was fatally wounded but this was an error. He, however, has a broken jaw bone and a number of severe bruises about the head and body, none serious.

Policeman Sam Bennett who made an attempt to stop the fight received a load of buck-shot in the abdomen and while his condition is serious, hope is entertained for his recovery.

The affair grew out of a fist fight earlier in the day between Doctor Hennessee and Gorman Pitts, the cause of the first fight not having yet been learned. After the first fight Doctor Hennessee went to his home, and arming himself, came back on the streets, where he and others of his relatives met the Pitts and the fight was on. It is said that Doctor Hennessee in addition to having a revolver, also had a Winchester rifle and a long physicians knife on his person. The Pitts crowd too were expecting trouble it seems and were likewise armed.

In the affray, according to an eye-witness, there were at least 100 shots fired including several loads of buckshot, but fortunately after the second shot fired from the Winchester rifle, the gun clogged and refused to fire, thus probably saving several lives. In addition to the shots fired there are at least 100 knife wounds on the six injured men, mute evidence of the bloody affair.

Ashford News.

Ashford, Jan. 20.—Miss Mabel Sides of Connelly Springs and Miss Ada Sides of Greensboro, visited their sister, Mrs. J. C. Connelly, last week.

A. W. Gilliam of Old Fort visited his daughter, Mrs. J. C. Brown, Saturday night and Sunday. He was accompanied home by his little grandson, Charlton Brown.

Messrs. W. T. Morgan and W. F. Wood of Marion spent the day here last Friday, bird hunting.

G. F. Bradley, of Forest City, was a pleasant visitor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Brown Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Laughridge of Bostic, visited the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Brown, Saturday night and Sunday.

Mrs. Emma McCall left Saturday for Union Mills where her sons Todd and Claud are in school. She was accompanied by her little grand daughter, Lonnie McCall, who will enter school there.

Mack Lonon and Green Chapman went to Marion Saturday.

The school here will close Friday, Jan. 31. An entertainment will be given. The public is invited to attend.

M. C. Caldwell, and daughter, Lizzie, went to Johnson City, Tenn., Sunday. Lizzie will enter school there.

RED WING.

Garden City Tidings.

Garden City, Jan. 20.—School reopened January 18th, after three weeks vacation. The average attendance for the last month was 80. This is a decrease on account of so many families moving away, and several of the pupils have gone to school elsewhere. We have our large bell erected, which is convenient for the school children.

Miss Eula Brown visited friends in Greenlee Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. J. P. Gowen, who has been visiting relatives in Marion for the past week, returned home Saturday.

Quite a number enjoyed the party given by Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Gibbs last Friday night. It was given for the fifth and sixth grades.

Miss Lennie Burgin left here last Monday for Canton. She will spend the winter there with her brother, George Burgin.

CLARA.

Social News

At the meeting of the Twentieth Century Club at the home of Mrs. Pescud Craig on Morgan street, the Club members began a review of the art of sculpture and painting, beginning with its earliest period. The subject for this evening was The Madonna. The Madonna, by Mrs. E. A. Thomas; Story of Sistine Madonna, Mrs. Hudgins; Murillo's picture of the Virgin Mary, Mrs. Giles; History of Madonna of Chair, Mrs. Bird; Poem by Eugene Field, Mrs. A. Blanton. Copies of about twenty-five of the noted Madonnas—master pieces of the most famous artists of the world—were used for study and observation.

This program was one of special interest to all present and it was continued at the meeting held with Mrs. D. F. Giles. At this meeting Mrs. Pless read an excellent paper on painting; Mrs. Winborne, The Ancient Mosaics of Ravenna, when the works of art were portrayed by minute particles of glass—sometimes as many as 10,000 tiny pieces were used in one portrait. Mrs. W. F. Wood gave an excellent article on Design. Copies of several famous pictures were shown as perfect examples in design, and Mrs. Giles read the story which prompted the portrayal of one of them.

The last meeting was held at the home of Mrs. J. Q. Gilkey on last Friday afternoon. The program being The Masters of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries. Twenty members were present at this highly entertaining meeting and all found the social hour and the study hour equally delightful.

The next meeting is at the home of Mrs. I. C. Griffin.

Mr. and Mrs. I. C. Griffin were at home to the members of the Bible Class of the Presbyterian Sunday School, Tuesday evening, January 9. Thirty-eight guests enjoyed the hospitality of their pleasant home. Several interesting contests were held which necessitated the sharpening of the wits considerably. Then the guests were ushered into the dining room where the hostess, assisted by Mrs. P. A. Reid and Mrs. John Hopper, served delicious refreshments. The whole evening was one of delightful social enjoyment and good cheer.

Mrs. Minnie Blanton entertained at cards at her home on Henderson street on Thursday of last week. The parlor where the guests assembled was given a spring-like touch by a number of large bowls of white narcissus and blooming white hyacinths. Mrs. Blanton was assisted by Mrs. Winborne and Miss Lucile Blanton. Tea was served at 5 o'clock, the twelve ladies present being seated at one long table in the dining room where much merriment was had.

On Friday, Mrs. Guy Kirby entertained at Bridge. Mrs. Kirby was assisted in welcoming her guests by Mrs. John Newton, of Roanoke, Va., the guest of the afternoon. At 5 p. m. all were seated at one handsomely appointed table in the dining room where a very dainty tea was served.

Grand Lodge of Masons.

Meeting in annual communication with an attendance of over 500 delegates, the Grand lodge of Masons last week in Raleigh transacted considerable business. It was decided to postpone action on the code revision until the communication in 1914.

Grand Master W. B. McKoy declined re-election and the officers elected and installed are:

Grand Master, Dr. F. M. Winchester, Charlotte; deputy grand master, Prof. J. T. Alderman, Henderson; senior grand warden, F. P. Hobgood, Jr., Greensboro; junior grand warden, A. B. Andrews, Jr., Raleigh; grand treasurer, Leo D. Heartt, Raleigh; grand secretary, John C. Drewry, Raleigh.

The appointive officers named by Grand Master Winchester and installed at the same time were: grand lecturer, R. S. Edwards, Topia; senior grand deacon, Dr. C. L. Pridgen, Kinston; junior grand deacon, George S. Norfleet, Winston-Salem; grand marshal, H. A. Grady, Clinton; grand pursuivant, J. C. Braswell, Whitakers; grand stewards, E. C. Cantwell, Wilmington and W. G. Rogers, Charlotte; grand tiler R. H. Bradley, Raleigh; grand historian, Marshall Delancey Haywood, Raleigh, grand assistant grand secretary, W. W. Wilson, Raleigh.

Savoy Theatre to Re-open.

The Savoy Theatre will reopen about the first of February with a high-class entertainment in motion pictures. A company of experienced men backed by the Carolina Film & Supply Company of Asheville, of which C. N. Justice is manager, have taken charge of this theatre and it is their intention to show three reels daily of the very best pictures as well as the latest in illustrated songs and music.

These gentlemen endeavored to show the famous "Nick Carter" pictures last week, but owing to a series of unfortunate circumstances, one of which was a bad machine, their first effort was not a great success. However, they wish to state to the public that the shows to be given in the future will be real ones. A new outfit will be sent here from headquarters in Asheville and every thing thoroughly tested before the formal opening. W. V. DeFarley will remain here to manage the theatre.

These gentlemen state that no pictures will be shown that can offend any lady and that strict order will be enforced.

Marion can patronize a good picture show and the new management of the Savoy will no doubt receive all the support a good, clean place of entertainment deserves.

Former Resident Dead.

Yesterday the remains of Mrs. George Jaquins Tate, a former resident of this place, were fetched here from Studley, Va., for interment in Oak Grove cemetery in the family plot. The funeral services were conducted in the Episcopal church at 3 o'clock. Owing to the fact that THE PROGRESS was ready for printing, a more extended notice will be published next week.

LATE NEWS OF INTEREST

Interesting Reading Matter of Local and National Affairs in Condensed Form.

Adam C. Jones, candidate for Governor in South Carolina in 1906, committed suicide Wednesday at his home in Spartanburg.

Two million packages were handled by the parcel post system during the first seven days' operation of the system, according to figures prepared by the Postoffice Department.

It is announced that Mr. J. J. Britt, Third Assistant Postmaster General, will at the expiration of his term in Washington return to Asheville and engage in the practice of law.

Mr. Franklin McNeil of Wilmington, who this week retired from the corporation commission after a service of 14 years, was given a handsome silver waiter by his associates.

A public meeting at Morganton last week authorized the drafting of bills for a commission form of government for that town, a recorder's court, a chain gang for Morganton township, etc.

The North State Company, which proposes to furnish electricity power to Morganton, Marion and adjacent towns has begun the erection of a dam in the Catawba river, in the vicinity of Glen Alpine, to develop the power.

An anti-trust bill guaranteed to have "teeth" by ex-Speaker E. J. Justice, and a bill by Kellum of New Hanover to put waterpower, electric and gas companies under rate control by the corporation commission, were features of the Legislature Thursday.

Deputy Marshal S. H. Harkrader, who was assaulted and badly disfigured on Tuesday night of last week while en route to Surry county jail with a "moonshine" distiller, will lose the sight of one eye as a result of the attack which resulted in the prisoner's being taken away from the officers and released.

Petitions are being circulated in behalf of Solicitor W. C. Hammer, who is a candidate for district attorney. The Salisbury Post says Mr. Hammer's candidacy is being vigorously pushed. The other candidates are Solicitor Porter Graves of Surry county, Mr. Chas. A. Webb of Asheville and Mr. Isaac T. Avery of Morganton.

The Methodist Children's Home at Winston has received a cash gift of \$10,000 to use in the erection of a model home for girls at that institution. Less than three months ago a gift of the same amount was received for constructing a baby cottage in connection with the Home. The names of the two liberal donors have not been revealed.

Governor Locke Craig has issued commissions in the North Carolina National Guard to Lawrence W. Young, of Asheville as adjutant general, and L. B. Bralson of Statesville, as quartermaster general, both with the rank of brigadier general, and Gordon Smith, of Raleigh, as assistant adjutant general.