

# MARION PROGRESS

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

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## GRADED SCHOOL FINALS

Appropriate Exercises Mark Close of a Most Successful Term—Seventeen Graduates.

The eleventh annual commencement of the Marion Graded School has just closed, with appropriate exercises held in the court house. Seventeen graduates, twelve girls and five boys, received diplomas. This is by far the largest graduating class in the history of the school, and it is believed to be the largest class in the state, enrollment considered.

On Thursday evening a contest in recitation was held, Miss Blanche White winning the medal offered by Mr. Houck. Those contesting were Misses June Laughridge, Thelma Hicks, Mary Poteat, Blanche Irwin, Blanche Houck, Blanche White and Ellen Carson. It was generally agreed that each of these girls rendered her piece very successfully, and all were complimented very highly. The judges, Mrs. D. E. Hudgins, Rev. B. S. Lassiter and Mr. J. M. Gilliam, of Lynchburg, Va., found it very difficult to render a decision.

The contest in declamation was the first number on the program Friday night. J. W. Pless, Jr., John Grayson Yancey, J. W. Streetman, Jr., Jesse Corpening and Fred Green were the contestants, and each acquitted himself with much honor. The judges, Rev. J. Q. Adams, Prof. L. C. Brogden, of the State Department of Education, Raleigh, N. C., and Rev. B. S. Lassiter, gave their decision in favor of John Grayson Yancey. Again it was very difficult to say which was the best declaimer, for the boys all did well, one of the judges declaring that there should have been a medal for each contestant.

The boys and girls who competed for the reciters and declaimers medals were trained by Miss Sarah Copeland, of the Graded School. Miss Copeland is a most capable and efficient artist, and all the girls and boys showed that they had had the very best of training. The entire community is indebted to Miss Copeland for her earnest and efficient work as a trainer in elocution and declamation.

Immediately following the contest in declamation, the graduating class entertained the audience with their exercises. The president, Mr. Robert Nichols, with a few well chosen words, welcomed the friends and patrons of the school, and introduced Miss Thelma Hicks, the historian of the class, who read in a very charming way, a well written history of the class. She succeeded in getting off several anecdotes, personal experiences of the class in general, and of some of its members in particular. Her paper was well received by the audience, and generously applauded. Miss Hicks having made public the past history of the class, Miss Annie Baber undertook to reveal its future. This she did most successfully. She related her experience in her efforts to read the future of each of her class mates in a very interesting way. Her paper sparkled with wit and humor, and she succeeded in assigning a fate to each of her class

mates, some of which were very fitting and others very ridiculous.

It remained for Will Pless to donate to the successors of the class certain interests for which the class of 1913 claimed the proprietorship. He succeeded in making several good "hits." His paper was gotten up in almost perfect legal form, showing an inherited talent, which has been most successfully developed.

The class exercises were closed with a song written by Miss Blanche White. The song itself was set to a very jolly tune, and the words expressed very aptly the feelings and emotions of the young ladies and gentlemen who were bidding farewell to their teachers and to each other.

The diplomas were awarded by the chairman of the Board, Mr. B. B. Price. Mr. Price delivered a most impressive address to the pupils, filled with good counsel and sound advice.

After the class had received their diplomas, Supt. Griffin came upon the stage and announced the honors for the year. Miss Mary Poteat, having won the highest distinction in scholarship among the girls, was awarded a scholarship at the State Normal College, Greensboro, N. C. Miss Thelma Hicks won the second honor, and was given the scholarship of Elizabeth College, Charlotte, N. C. Mr. John Elliott was awarded the University of North Carolina scholarship, the highest honor to be won by any boy in the High School. Mr. J. W. Pless, Jr., was awarded the Washington and Lee University scholarship, the second highest honor for boys.

Miss Mary Poteat has the further distinction of having attended school every day, without being tardy, since she entered the first grade. This is a distinction equalled by only one other high school pupil in the state, so far as is known.

J. W. Pless, Jr., also has the distinction of being one of the youngest graduates of a high school in the state.

After these announcements, Rev. J. C. Story was called upon to deliver the Reid historical medal, which had been won by Miss Ellen Carson, whose subject was "McDowell County's Part in the War between the States." This is considered one of the highest honors, from the fact that it represents original work on the part of the winner. Miss Thelma Hicks, whose subject was "Marion", won second place in this contest. Mrs. Bird is the teacher of history, and is to be complimented on the splendid work done in this department.

Rev. J. Q. Adams then announced the decision of the judges in the boys' contest, and awarded the Hudgins declaimers' medal to John Grayson Yancey, and Rev. B. S. Lassiter the Houck reciter's medal to Miss Blanche White.

The exercises were interrupted here by Mr. D. E. Hudgins, who arose from the audience and announced that he had the privilege of representing the Board of Education, who wished to express their appreciation of the services of Miss Nan Guy, who has been a member of the faculty for several years. She resigned her position at the close of the present term. After a few appropriate remarks,

## STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

Half a million dollars have been voted for bonds since April 1 for new school buildings in North Carolina, according to a statement of Supt. Joyner.

A conservative estimate based on reports from the eastern part of the State places the yield of Irish potatoes in this part of the State at about 50 per cent of a normal crop.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels and William E. Gonzales, editor of the Columbia State, have accepted invitations to deliver addresses at the annual convention of the North Carolina Press Association, which meets in Asheville July 24 and 25.

Preparation for road work in Rutherford county has been made by the purchase of a traction engine, three road machines and a power plow. Superintendent Valentine is busy effecting arrangements for an early beginning of operations.

As a result of Buffalo Bill's Wild West show tent blowing down at Henderson last week and killing a man, the show has been sued for \$10,000 damages. A second damage suit is also brought against the show for injuries to a young woman when the tent was wrecked.

Mr. Hudgins presented to her, on behalf of the graded school committee, a beautiful set of James Whitcomb Riley's poems, bound in handsome red Egyptian leather. Miss Guy had charge of the class exercises for this year, and to her is due much of the credit of their success.

The court house was packed to its utmost capacity, and many were turned away. The order was excellent. The people of Marion are enthusiastic over their graded school, and give it most hearty support. The truth is, there is no institution in the town to which the people give such united support. The town, a few weeks ago, voted a large bond issue, and a handsome, new, modern, up-to-date school building is now being erected on the graded school grounds, and we look forward to the next scholastic year being even better than the one just ended.

HONOR ROLL, 1912-'13.

The following pupils were neither absent nor tardy during the entire year and therefore constitute the Honor Roll:

- 1st grade—Herbert Chapman.
- 2nd grade—Carter Hudgins, Charlie May Epley.
- 3rd grade—Mary McConnel, Frank Atwell, Rufus Sowers.
- 5th grade—Nellie McCurry, Ray Hemphill, Alna Rader.
- 6th grade—Edna Rader, Mattie Gladden, Samuel Story.
- 7th grade—Joseph Story, John Poteat.
- 8th grade—Harold Griffin, Alma McCurry, Katie Huffman, Alice Bobbitt.
- 9th grade—William Gladden, Lois Gilkey, Maude Carson.
- 10th grade—Ellen Carson, Effie Hicks, Mary Poteat, John Elliott, Amy Bomar.

## The Highway Commission.

The highway commission for Marion township was appointed last week, and in naming Messrs. A. Blanton, Dr. B. L. Ashworth and Geo. M. Carson to constitute the commission Governor Craig made a splendid selection. The commissioners met Saturday and organized by electing A. Blanton chairman and Dr. B. L. Ashworth secretary.

The highway commission for Old Fort was also appointed last week, the Governor naming H. A. Tate, P. H. Mashburn and F. M. Bradley. For Nebo the following have been recommended and will probably be appointed during the week. W. G. Hunter, J. L. Padgett and T. J. Hemphill.

At a joint meeting of the commissioners held here Monday, A. Blanton, chairman, was authorized to advertise for bids for the bonds of the three townships. The bonds will bear interest at the rate of 5 1/2 cents and option will be reserved to pay them off in equal annual installments after first ten years, so as to retire the issues by the end of thirty years. Mr. Blanton has sent out circular letters to a hundred or more leading bond houses throughout the United States and hopes to receive many bids and to be able to readily dispose of the bonds.

In the circular letter, Mr. Blanton says: "The undersigned will receive bids either open or sealed for these bonds at the office of the Marion Highway Commission at Marion, N. C., until 11 o'clock a. m., on Saturday, June 14, 1913. I will be pleased to receive a bid from you for the entire issue or will consider bids for each township issue separately.

"The successful bidder will be expected to deposit a certified check for one per cent. of amount of bonds purchased pending legal investigation by purchaser and delivery of bonds. Right is reserved to reject any and all bids."

## Twentieth Century Club.

The Twentieth Century Club will close their season with the next meeting, which will be held with Mrs. P. A. Reid, Saturday, June 7th, at 3:45 o'clock. Eugene Field will be the subject.

At their last meeting Mrs. W. F. Wood was hostess, and despite the down-pour of rain, a goodly number of members were present. The date of this meeting falling so nearly upon the one hundred and tenth anniversary of the birth of Ralph Waldo Emerson, his life and works were chosen for study. A sketch of his life, an interesting account of his historic home, a brief outline of some of his essays, and several poems were read. Delightful refreshments were served.

## Held on Serious Charge.

Wichard Godfrey is in jail charged with criminal assault on Lillie Reel. No preliminary trial has been had except that Godfrey waived examination and was bound to Superior Court without bond. Mr. Godfrey has a wife and several children. Lillie Reel is a crippled orphan girl, and has been staying at Godfrey's home for some time. The rumors about the charged assault are repulsive and unprintable.

The Marion chain gang outfit was sold Monday to Rutherfordton, the chain gang having been abolished by the bond election.

## NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

Brief Mention of Some of the Happenings in McDowell County—Items About Home People.

(Correspondents must sign their names to all communications or items will be omitted. The name of the writer will not be published, however. All communications must be in this office not later than Tuesday. Remember these rules, and heed, if you please.—EDITOR.)

### NEBO

Nebo, June 2.—Misses Estelle Wilson and Rosa Stacy, of the State Normal College, Greensboro, are at home on their vacation.

Miss Iowa Sigmon is visiting relatives and friends in Greensboro and Gibsonville, N. C.

Miss Olive Annis was shopping in Marion one day last week.

Fred Bryson of Hickory visited Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bowman last week.

Miss Mamie Stacy, a student of Littleton Female College, is at home for her vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Hildebrand of Bridgewater visited the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Sigmon, during the week.

Quite a number of our boys and girls attended the commencement at Marion last week. J. H. Hemphill made the trip in his automobile accompanied by several young ladies. The trip was much enjoyed by all.

Mrs. W. J. Kennedy of Erwin, Tenn., has returned home after a visit here.

Master Chaffie Sigmon is spending a few days with his sister, Mrs. M. L. Hildebrand, at Bridgewater.

J. L. Padgett and daughter, Fay, attend church at Harmony Grove Sunday.

Joseph Hunter of Earlinton, Ky., is at home for awhile.

Misses Carrie Tate and Eddie Young of Bridgewater spent Sunday with Miss Estelle Wilson.

F. N. Sigmon left Sunday for Thrall, Wash., where he will resume his work as operator.

E. L. Tate has returned home from Nashville, Tenn.

Miss Nita Sigmon is visiting relatives in Hickory.

Mrs. M. A. Radiall and son, Loy, were shopping in Marion Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Annis, Mrs. G. G. Annis of Erwin, Tenn., spent Sunday with relatives here.

G. D. Taylor attended the Rural Carrier's convention at Conley's Springs, Friday.

Walter Stacy of Glen Alpine is visiting his aunt, Mrs. J. K. Craig.

Jay Ballew of Marion Junction was here on business Saturday.

Arthur Beach of Morganton visited Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Beach during the week.

Mr. — Dobson of Greenlee visited his mother, Mrs. Sallie Dobson, Sunday.

Mrs. T. E. Snipes and daughter, Mrs. B. G. Carr, of Marion were pleasant visitors here Saturday.

Miss Estelle Wilson gave a reception Saturday evening which was attended by a large number of her friends. Refreshments were served and many interesting games were played. All report a delightful time.

MARY ANN and NANCY

### THOMPSON'S FORK

Thompson's Fork, June 2.—Mrs. Joe Bailey of Nebo was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Jaynes last Sunday.

Miss Ada Rowe was shopping in Marion, Wednesday.

Ed. Tate and little sons, Bruce and Ralph, of Nebo, visited the former's mother, Mrs. Mattie Tate, Monday.

J. N. Cuthbertson is attending court in Morganton.

Miss Mattie Snipes of Harmony Grove visited relatives and friends here last week.

Paul Rhyne of Morganton is spending a few days with his grandmother, Mrs. J. N. Cuthbertson.

Sam Richie, who has been at work on the C. C. & O. railroad in Virginia, is spending a few days here with home-folks.

### NORTH FORK

Hankins, June 2.—The people of this vicinity are all very anxious for good

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