

MARION PROGRESS

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

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COUNTY COMMENCEMENT

Awards and Prizes Announced for Commencement at Marion on March 31—The Program.

Arrangements are about complete for the second annual McDowell County Commencement of rural schools which will take place in Marion Saturday, March 31st. It is planned to make this occasion of great interest to the school children and patrons throughout the county. It is hoped that every parent and every child of school age in McDowell county will be present. There will be a number of interesting exhibits of school work. The Marion Mill Band will furnish music for the occasion.

PROGRAM.

10:30 a. m.—Parade of floats and school children. (Parade will form at Marion Graded School.)

11:00 a. m.—Recitation and declamation contest at the graded school auditorium. (For boys and girls below 8th grade.)

12:30 to 1:00 p. m.—Dinner hour.

1:30 p. m.—Address (speaker to be announced later.) Awarding of diplomas.

2:30 p. m.—Athletic games for boys. Rhythmic games for girls.

8:00 p. m.—Debate, at graded school auditorium. Query: Resolved, that the State of North Carolina should grant the right of suffrage to women.

The following prizes will be offered: A handsome set of books will be awarded to the boy who writes the best composition on "Conservation of Our Forests." To the girl who writes the best composition on "Conservation of Our Native Birds" will be awarded a \$5.00 fountain pen. These prizes are open to the fifth and sixth grades only. The compositions should be not more than one thousand words in length. A prize of \$10.00 will be awarded to the person bringing to the commencement the greatest number of children on one wagon; second prize, \$5.00.

Gold medals will be awarded the winners in the declamation and recitation contests. A prize will be awarded to the high school boy who writes the best essay on "Ideal Rural Life in McDowell County," this to be worked out from the man's point of view. A prize will also be awarded the high school girl who writes the best essay on this same subject from the woman's point of view. In each case it is expected that a comprehensive picture of the possibilities of rural life improvement be given. Other prizes will be announced later.

Awards not mentioned above will be given for best progress in reading and writing in both first and second grades; for perfect attendance and punctuality; for third and fourth grade recitations and language work, and for the best school float.

An opportunity will be given to exhibit every variety of household arts and manual work. All teachers are requested to place on exhibit all examples of meritorious work. Each school will be expected to march under its own banner. Certificates will be awarded to all successful seventh grade students who pass the examination.

One Board of Directors for Three State Hospitals.

The Legislature abolished the boards of directors of the three State Hospitals—the State Hospital at Morganton, the State Hospital at Raleigh and the State Hospital at Goldsboro for the colored race—and provided for one board of nine directors for the three institutions. Gov. Bickett has made the following appointments for the consolidated board, the appointees being confirmed by the State Senate:

For term of two years beginning April 1, 1917: A. E. Tate, High Point, Morganton district; C. A. Woodard, Durham, Raleigh district; W. H. Williamus, Washington, State-at-large.

For term of four years beginning April 1, 1917: C. P. Matheson, Taylorsville, Morganton district; B. B. Adams, Four Oaks, Raleigh district; F. B. McKinne, Louisville, State-at-large.

For term of six years beginning April 1, 1917: R. R. Clark, Statesville, Morganton district; Joseph G. Brown, Raleigh, Raleigh district; J. W. Thompson, Goldsboro, State-at-large.

It is provided under the new arrangement that the three members from the Morganton district will compose the Morganton district will compose the executive committee for the Morganton Hospital, the three from the Raleigh district the committee for the Raleigh institution and the three from the State-at-large the committee for the Goldsboro Hospital, that institution taking patients from the entire State. These three separate groups will be in direct control of the management of the different institutions, the general board supervising the whole.

The bill also makes the superintendents of the three State Hospitals and the superintendents of the School for the Deaf at Morganton, the School for the Blind at Raleigh and the Caswell Training School at Kinston a purchasing board for the six institutions. They will co-operate in buying supplies and will combine purchases when a saving can be effected thereby.

The three members of the consolidated board from this section of the State—Matheson, Tate and Clark—who will have direct supervision of the Morganton Hospital—were members of the old board of that institution. Other members of the Morganton Hospital board who are retired by the consolidation are Mr. I. I. Davis of Morganton, the president of the board; Capt. J. P. Sawyer of Asheville, Mr. A. A. Shuford of Hickory, Mr. F. P. Alspaugh of Winston-Salem, Mr. Heriot Clarkson of Charlotte and Dr. L. N. Glenn of Gastonia.

Many Killed and Injured by Tornado in Indiana.

Twenty-one persons are known to have been killed, several are missing, more than 100 persons were injured, some fatally, and property damaged to the extent of \$1,000,000 was the toll of a tornado which struck Newcastle, Ind., about 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

The latest reports from Newcastle report 24 dead and several missing. Several hundred injured. One hundred homes were demolished and about 2,000 damaged.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

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

MONFORD'S COVE.

Sugar Hill, March 10.—The farmers about here are anxious for the sunny days to begin their spring work.

W. S. Hayes, I. E. Marlow, J. G. Haynes, J. H. Hensley and C. Y. Banning spent last Monday in Marion.

Lee Marlow of Marion visited his mother this week.

Shorty Whitesides spent a few days on Cedar creek last week.

Mrs. C. M. Hall has been very sick but is improving.

Mrs. C. B. Harris visited Mrs. Grant Harris last week.

G. M. Harris made a business trip to Union Mills last week.

The people here welcome the improved service of a mail route from Nealsville.

Mrs. Addie Williams of Sugar Hill visited her grandmother, Mrs. Hall, last Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Hemphill of Sugar Hill attended the funeral of Little Fred Harris at this place Tuesday.

C. R. Wilkerson spent Wednesday in Marion.

M. R. Nanney spent Saturday in Marion.

THOMPSON'S FORK.

Thompson's Fork, March 11.—Miss Bertha Stones was the guest of Misses Mittie and Jessie McNeely, Sunday.

Mrs. J. Yelton visited relatives at Nebo today.

Carl McNeely and James Holland visited Charles Holland near Bridgewater today.

J. C. Hemphill and son, Ben, were in Marion Saturday.

Ivy Gibbs spent Sunday with Tom McGallard.

The Thompson's Fork string band met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Cuthbertson Saturday evening and rendered music that was enjoyed very much by all present.

Fonze Finley of Nebo was here Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Jaynes were visitors here Saturday.

Robert and Bryan McNeely were in Marion, Saturday.

Miss Z. Yelton was shopping in Marion last Saturday.

John Cuthbertson and family visited relatives at Morganton last Thursday.

CLINCHFIELD COTTON MILL.

Marion, March 12.—Misses Estelle and Gay Belle Patterson returned from Shelby Sunday where they have been visiting relatives.

Roy Suttles is at home from Woodruff, S. C., where he has been at work.

J. S. Rector and family have moved to the country, near Halltown.

Miss Hattie Loggins of Liberty, S. C., is visiting her sister, Mrs. P. E. Alexander.

G. C. Dixon is teaching a singing school at the Marion mill.

Arthur McCall spent Saturday night and Sunday with his parents near Swannanoa.

The Ladies Union Society gave an entertainment at the school house Saturday night. The proceeds amounted to \$32.15, which will be used for the purpose of erecting a new Baptist church.

Frank Suttlemire has closed his barber shop here and has gone to Charlotte.

BRIDGEWATER.

Bridgewater, March 13.—Mrs. W. Jay Ballew of Marion Junction spent a few days here last week.

Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Tate made a business trip to Marion last Friday.

Miss Pink Tate left last week for an extended visit to Lenoir, Newton and Hickory.

Mrs. Minnie Anthony and Miss Katherine Rockett were shopping in Morganton, Saturday.

Mrs. R. A. Abernethy and sister, Mrs. Hattie Middleton, spent Friday at Marion Junction.

Miss Ethel Mathews and Lillie Hunter of Nebo High school spent the weekend here with homefolks.

Miss Terrissa Campbell spent Saturday in Hickory.

Mrs. C. D. Hemphill and son, Bryan,

spent Wednesday in Morganton. Born, to Mr. and Mrs. George P. Coulter, March 2nd, a daughter.

ASHFORD.

Ashford, March 11.—Everybody is very busy preparing to plant gardens to help fight the high cost of living.

Charlie Carpenter visited homefolks at Linyville Falls Saturday and Sunday.

Rev. Grady Nanney of Union Mills preached a very interesting sermon at Concord church Sunday.

N. L. Hampton and J. N. Lonon made a business trip to Marion Friday.

The box supper at Ashford school house Saturday night was a success. The ten boxes brought \$16.30 and the pound box of candy for the prettiest girl brought \$16.70, making \$33.00 realized from the supper. Miss Tennie Brown received the most votes and was awarded the box of candy.

NEBO.

Nebo, March 13.—We are very glad to welcome into our midst Rev. Drake, our Baptist pastor, and family of Hendersonville who have recently moved here. The people of Nebo gave him a generous pounding Saturday night.

J. C. Goforth and Will Landis of Dartsyville visited relatives in Nebo, Sunday.

Mrs. L. E. Sigmon of Black Mountain has been visiting her mother, Mrs. J. K. Stacy for the past few days.

Miss Ethel Mathis visited homefolks near Bridgewater Saturday and Sunday. She was accompanied by Miss Lillie Landis.

Rev. Frye preached a splendid sermon at the Methodist church Sunday night.

Old Fort Man Rescues Comrade in Hawaiian Surf.

While engaged on the hydrographic survey of Waimanale Bay, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands, a party of seven members of the engineers corps of the United States army was upset from a boat in thirty feet of water about 7,000 feet from shore by a large wave that raised and carried the stern of the boat over the bow. One man of the medical department could not swim and went down. When he came up to the surface, Private Noah H. Souther, of Old Fort, N. C., who is now a member of Company "D" U. S. engineers, stationed at Fort Shafter, Hawaiian territory, at the risk of his own life, swam to the aid of his comrade, supporting him and keeping him afloat until the life preservers had been removed from the boat and one fastened about him. Private Souther, with the aid of another member of the engineers righted the boat, collected the loose oars and helped push the boat to shore by aiding at the stern.

Such acts are usually recognized in the army and rewarded by a certificate of merit, signed by the president of the United States. A certificate of merit in addition to the honor carried with it, additional pay which is paid monthly to the soldier as long as he remains in the service. It is very probable that the young North Carolinian will be recommended for a certificate.

British Transport is Sunk; 625 Lives Lost.

London, March 9.—The British transport Mendi, carrying South African native laborers, was sunk after a collision on February 21 and 625 persons lost their lives. Ten of the persons lost were Europeans, according to the announcement made today to the South African parliament by General Louis Botha, the premier. The collision occurred off the Isle of Wight.

STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

Orders have been issued for all National Guard troops on the Mexican border to be entrained and enroute home by March 21st in order that they may be mustered out of the Federal service by April 1.

Announcement is made that trips will be taken to the "Top of Eastern America" over the Mount Mitchell railroad during the early spring season, arrangements having been made for the operation of trains commencing March 21.

President Orders Ships Armed and Calls Extra Session of Congress.

Washington, March 9.—President Wilson from a sick bed today ordered the arming of American merchant ships against Germany's ruthless submarine warfare, and at the same time issued a proclamation calling an extra session of congress to meet April 16.

The president's decision came suddenly late this afternoon, following the action of the senate yesterday in revising its rules to permit prompt action on important questions and the submission of formal opinions by Secretary Lansing and Attorney General Gregory that he has the power to arm merchantmen without action by congress.

Details of the government's armed neutrality plans for defending the merchant marine were withheld to avoid endangering Americans and their ships by permitting the information to reach Germany. The only statement at the white house and the navy department was that the president had determined to fully protect American rights.

Railway Strike Is Threatened.

Washington, March 13.—Complete plans of the four railroad brotherhoods for a nation-wide strike to be inaugurated next Saturday evening unless the railroads grant their eight hour day demands were ratified here today by local union leaders from southeastern territory, and by a similar conference of representatives of the southwest held at St. Louis.

Married at the Court House.

Mr. Charles Lawing and Miss Josephine Reel, of Nealsville, McDowell county, came down on the early Monday morning Southern train and immediately went to the county court house where a license was secured and they were happily married by Rev. T. C. Jordan, of the Methodist church. Quite a large crowd of persons quickly gathered to witness this always interesting event. The young couple returned to their home over the 10:10 northbound train.—Rutherfordton Sun, 8th.

The proposed nation-wide probe of food prices which President Wilson directed the Federal Trade Commission to make, will not be undertaken because of the failure of Congress to appropriate the \$400,000 asked to conduct the investigation.

Services at St. John's next Sunday at 7:30 p. m.