

MARION PROGRESS

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

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OUR BOYS AT FT. THOMAS

Interesting Letters from Marion Boys Now Stationed at Fort Thomas, Ky.

John A. Finley, son of Mrs. M. C. Finley of this place, now with the First platoon, Sec. A, 13th Recruit Co., at Fort Thomas, Ky., writes The Progress as follows:

Fort Thomas, Ky.,
Jan. 13, 1918.

To Readers of The Progress:

The ninety-six boys from Western North Carolina who enlisted in the service of their country on December 12th last, eight of whom are from McDowell county, wish to encourage the young men who are soon to enter the ranks of those who are to fight for "Old Glory." It is best that the fighting be done by those who are unhampered by domestic responsibilities. We young men who are not bound by domestic ties are glad to fight for the cause of freedom. But the part of those who remain at home is just as important as that of those in the front line of battle. If each man, woman and child in the United States does his "bit," we shall soon be at home again. There is no occasion for gloom. The situation should be met with cheerfulness.

We owe a word of appreciation to the Y. M. C. A. and to the Red Cross. We have been under close quarantine all the time since we came here, and had it not been for the fruit and other nice things given to us by the Y. M. C. A. it would have been a rather gloomy Christmas for us. Through the kindness of Mr. Gordon, of Asheville, we have been furnished a piano in our little bunk house during the time we are in quarantine. The Red Cross workers have given each of us a sweater, a helmet and wristlets. These two organizations are doing a great work among the soldier boys.

Owing to the large number of volunteers who have come into this camp, some of the men have been in need of blankets and mattresses, but the officers are doing all in their power to secure all comforts for them. We have good wholesome food, which is prepared for us in a sanitary manner. We have milk to drink twice a day.

The young men who went from McDowell County to Fort Thomas, are Joseph Crawford Landis, Jack R. Hoffman, Fred A. Greene, Thomas J. Greenlee, Clarence Murphy, Benjamin H. Gurley, Samuel S. Gurley and John A. Finley. We are always glad to hear from our friends back home.

J. A. F.

Martin F. Duncan, a Marion boy now located at Fort Thomas, Ky., writes The Progress as follows:

Fort Thomas, Ky., Jan. 18, 1918.
Editor MARION PROGRESS:

Dear Sir:—A few lines concerning the home boys at Fort Thomas may be of interest to some of The Progress readers. We are all well and getting along all right, but have been under quarantine ever since we arrived here. There are eight or ten Marion boys here and all are trying to make good. All are anxious to see service in France. We have good officers and a nice place to stay. We will leave here

as soon as the quarantine is lifted and it is expected that most of us will be sent to Texas. We saw service last year on the Mexican border. We were sent to hunt Villa, but after we arrived at El Paso we were not allowed to cross the line. But, remember, if we get a chance we will go over the German line and get the Kaiser. We are trying to make good and will stand by President Wilson till the end.

We are having lots of cold weather; snow is twelve inches deep here now and more promised.

We hope the people of Marion will be kind enough to send us some papers, magazines, or anything to read when we arrive in France. They will be appreciated.

MARTIN F. DUNCAN,
13th Co., 1st platoon.

Registrants Called for Examination.

The local exemption board has called the following men for physical examination on January 25th:

Fult Allen, Arthur Brown, Geo. R. Bryson, Floyd Bynum, Claud Alex Burnett, Arthur Bladsworth, William H. Crawford, Lona Edmon Carswell, Leonard Burnin Dalton, Frank Greer, Burt Wm. Hunter, Charlie B. Holsclaw, John Stanley Hunter, Wiley Loyd Hoppis, Horace C. Hendley, Luster Hollifield, Arthur Hardy, Marian Hollifield, Benjamin Young Jordan, Will Ray McCormick, Joseph S. McGee, Harvey Morgan, Quince Virgil Potest, James Proctor, Charles Pyatt, Walt Harvey Porter, Lonnie Shuford, Zollie Crawford Worley, Romie White.

The following have been called for examination January 28th:

Fred Anderson, Troy M. Brooks, Cecil R. Burgin, Dock Bivins, Sam Boyce, Lonnie C. Cowan, Mills M. Craig, Alonzo Elcain Davis, Walter James Gregory, Horace Arthur Hensley, Forest Lee Harrelson, John Hanks, Melvin Hicks, colored; James Theodore Holland, Rosco Hoppes, Bryson Foster Hobbs, Hugh Henderson, Fred Douglas Johnson, Clinton B. Landis, Emra Fairl Martin, William Smith, Zeb Vance Snipes, Albert Weaver, Claud A. Wilson, Dee Whitener, colored; James H. Young.

Mr. Pless Resigns as Principal at Greenlee to Enter Law School.

J. W. Pless, Jr., who has been principal of the Greenlee High School during the present school year, has resigned to enter the law school at the University of North Carolina. Mr. Pless rendered excellent service to the school. His work was very satisfactory not only to the authorities but to the patrons as well. The County Superintendent and committee of the school very reluctantly accept his resignation.

Miss Ruth Hunter, who has been principal of the Marion Junction school, has succeeded Mr. Pless as principal of the Greenlee school. Miss Hunter has rendered excellent satisfaction as principal of the Marion Junction school. She is well qualified for her work as teacher, and will no doubt have a successful spring term at Greenlee.

By special government ruling theatres will be allowed to open on Mondays, but will be closed on Tuesdays hereafter.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

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

NEBO

Nebo, Jan. 17.—M. V. Snipes, who has been quite ill for a while, is said to be improving.

Miss Lizzie Drake of Hendersonville has returned home after spending a week with her brother, Rev. T. A. Drake.

Miss Maggie Taylor left last Wednesday for Elon College where she entered school for the spring term.

Will Morgan and Will Landis of Newport, R. I., are visiting relatives and friends here this week.

Miss Sallie Gibbs spent a few days last week with her sister at Bridgewater.

DYSARTVILLE

Dysartville, Jan. 21.—Will A. Landis, of the Hospital Corps, a branch of the U. S. Navy of Newport, Rhode Island, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Landis, last week. He returned to Boston, Mass., last Saturday.

John Mangum, who has been working for a railroad company near Gaffney, S. C., is home for a month or so on account of cold weather.

Frank Cowan took his sister, Miss Mamie, to Marion Saturday to spend a few days with her aunt, Mrs. J. L. Laughridge.

T. B. Landis made a business trip to Marion last Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Tipton of Burnsville, visited their son, J. C. Tipton, recently. Our public school is progressing nicely, considering the wintry weather.

McKinley Hutchins is home for a few months from Detroit, Michigan.

Thomas Dixon, a native of Dysartville, died at Spindale, Rutherford county last Friday. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the stricken family. Mr. Dixon was a good man.

Mr. Carswell and Ernest Satterwhite made a business trip to Marion last Friday.

Ben Landis visited his sister at Thermal City last week.

Keep Railroads Until After the War

Washington, Jan. 21.—Director General McAdoo told the senate interstate commerce committee today that he thought the government should retain operation of the railroads for some time after peace comes and not return them to private owners until new and complete laws have been made.

Director General McAdoo denied that he had anything to do with the shipping order. He said he approved the order and thought it would do good.

"It should be borne in mind," said Mr. McAdoo, "that by the end of the war the public and shippers will be accustomed to dealing with the government and I am convinced that a fair time should be given them before the railroads are turned back to their owners."

New Classification Ordered.

Arrangements have been made by the provost marshal general for classification of every man in the selective draft as to his occupational training. Heretofore this problem has been met after the men arrived at the training camp, but now the local exemption boards will be supplied with a card index system and every trade and profession in which the registrant has had experience or has knowledge will be kept on this list, so that when the army calls for men trained in this or that trade or profession they can be supplied.

Assistants will be needed, however, and volunteers will be called for, among school teachers and others, to assist the local boards in doing this work.

Government to Sell Nitrate for Fertilizer Through County Agent.

Notice has been given to J. L. Thurman, Agricultural Agent for McDowell County, that the U. S. Department of Agriculture will sell at cost a supply of nitrate of soda to farmers in McDowell county.

The nitrate was purchased through the War Industries Board under the authority of the Food Control Act as a part of the program for stimulating agricultural production. It will be unloaded at Atlantic ports and the price will be \$75.50 a ton, free on board cars at port of arrival. Farmers are to pay in addition freight from port of arrival and the State fertilizer tag fee.

HOW TO OBTAIN NITRATE

Applications for a part of the 100,000 tons of nitrate bought by the government will be received only from actual farmers or owners or holders of farms for use on their land, and may be made through County Agent Thurman or through any member of a local committee—Miltard Potest, County Treasurer or Horace Early.

No money will be required with the application but upon notice from the County Agent farmers who have signed applications must deposit with a local bank, association, or individual, designated by the Secretary of Agriculture to act as the farmers' agent for that purpose, money to cover the cost of the fertilizer except the freight charge. After the money is transmitted to Washington the nitrate will be shipped to the farmers. If applications for the nitrate exceed the supply of about 100,000 tons the government will allot the supply on a pro rata basis among those who applied. Applications must be received by February 4.

First Heatless Monday is Success.

Washington, Jan. 21.—General observance of the first heatless Monday was reported today throughout the United States.

Many railroads were assisting in the effort to supply homes and transatlantic shipping with coal and were moving little general freight. The Pennsylvania road went so far as to instruct its agents not to receive freight for shipment at any of its stations.

Coal and wood were virtually the only commodities moving aside from the small amount for government service.

The state fuel administrators reported that most office buildings, although permitted to heat certain exempted offices, were burning enough coal only to keep the pipes from freezing.

Strike in Austria.

London, Jan. 20.—A general strike is on throughout Austria, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Paris today which reports 100,000 men quitting work in Vienna and Neustadt, closing down all the war factories. The strikers are described as openly anti-German and the movement is both political and economic and especially aimed at securing peace.

Public demonstrations, it is added, have been held in many places at which hostility was voiced toward Berlin for trying to force the Austrians to continue the war.

STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

Major H. A. Lonon, editor of the Chatham Record, died Sunday of pneumonia at his home in Pittsboro, aged 75.

The executive committee of the Teachers' Assembly has decided to hold the next meeting of the Assembly in Raleigh November 27.

During the severe weather several small North Carolina coast towns have been cut off because ice blocked navigation. No mail was received at Manteo, for instance, for near a month.

A statement issued on the 16th shows that North Carolina has applied for \$6,610,319 in loans from the Federal Land Banks. Loans aggregating \$2,339,186 have been approved and loans for \$518,930 have been closed.

W. A. Roseman, a Salisbury grocer, was fined \$500 in Rowan county court for selling Jamaica ginger and other extracts as beverages, many people using these as substitutes for liquor. It was in evidence that Roseman had invested \$400 in the extracts.

Rev. Robert Wesley Pickens, the oldest member of the Western North Carolina conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, died at his home at Weaverville, near Asheville, Sunday morning in his ninety-third year. A wife and several children survive.

J. L. Saunders, white, and John Russell, colored, were acquitted in Burke court of the charge of murder in connection with the killing of Bob Butler, a negro, at the Southern Power Company's development works near Bridgewater. Saunders, it was shown, killed the negro in self-defence. Russell was charged with aiding and abetting.

The deposits of the 80 national banks in North Carolina have more than doubled within five years, according to a statement of Comptroller of the Currency John Skelton Williams. The deposits on November 26, 1912, were \$43,188,000, while the exhibit for November 20, 1917, showed deposits totaling \$89,053,000.

Dr. John E. Ray, for many years superintendent of the State School for the Blind, died suddenly at midnight Thursday at his home in Raleigh. Heart disease. Wife and five children survive. Dr. Ray was much interested in his work of training the blind and at the time of his death was supervising the construction of new buildings for the institution, for which he had long faithfully labored.

The First National Bank of Morganton is helping to increase the pork supply in Burke. The bank has arranged to distribute two pigs to every boy or girl in Burke who will take them. A promise to pay when the hogs are killed is all that is required, and as each pig is paid for, the purchaser will be allowed another on the same terms. The bank is promoting the enterprise through county demonstration agent.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Crawford, a son.