

# MARION PROGRESS

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

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## GREAT HIGHWAY PLANNED

Completion of System from Tennessee Line Through Avery, Burke and McDowell Assured.

Development of the dormant resources, scenic and material, of one of the richest and most picturesque regions in America is promised in plans now maturing for the early construction of the necessary first-class highways to make it accessible. Last spring the State Highway Commission, in co-operation with the counties traversed, made provision for the macadamized road from the Tennessee line at Cranberry, N. C., down Toe River to Mitchell county, thence through Mitchell, Yancey, Madison and Buncombe to Asheville. This system reaches the county seats of all these counties, either on the main line or with short branches, as well as other towns, including Spruce Pine and Pluntree. Work on these roads will begin as soon as the plans and specifications have been approved by the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington and the contracts can be let.

Further completion of the system laid out in 1916 and 1917 by the State Highway commission is now planned by Avery, Burke and McDowell counties, as recent official action has shown. Avery county by its county commissioners is now ready to undertake the completion of the road from Newland, down the Linville river valley via Crossnore and Altamont to Linville Falls. At this point there is about a mile and a quarter in Burke county, between Avery and McDowell counties. The people of that locality, Jonas Ridge township in Burke county, are about to hold an election, ordered by the Burke county commissioners at their request, to vote an issue of \$10,000 road bonds, which will pay for their part of this piece of road and also contribute to the construction of an improved road from Linville Falls, joining the main highway there, to Jonas Ridge on the east side of Linville river. The townships of Upper Creek and Quaker Meadows, covering the mountain region lying between Jonas Ridge and Morganton, have previously voted bonds, which they will now sell and proceed to co-operate in building a good road across the mountains by the nearest route from Morganton to Linville Falls, thus connecting the county seats of Burke and Avery.

Probably the most important and one of the most interesting links in this whole system is the seven miles from Linville Falls, down the picturesque canyon of the North Fork of the Catawba, to Linville Falls station on the C. C. & O. Railway. This project has long been a favorite with the State Highway Commission, beginning in the days of Joseph Hyde Pratt and continuing to the present. It was adopted and federal aid provided as Project No. 6 by the State Highway Commission in 1917 and considerable work has already been done on the lower end of this section. With the contemplated completion of this road through North Cove and Marion townships to Marion to connect with the Central Highway the mountain region will be opened up and its varied

resources and unequalled scenic and climatic attractions made available to the world. The mountain people fully realize what these great highways mean to them and are quite willing to do their part to secure them. The McDowell County Road Commission, under the capable and energetic leadership of Mr. Hugh F. Little, is taking a very prominent position in the work of bringing about these results, for Mr. Little has imagination, the business sagacity and the force to conceive and execute far-reaching plans.

The Burke county part of this system includes a steel bridge over Linville river near Linville Falls, which was ordered by the Burke county commissioners last Monday, to be built along with the new road.

## Road Bonds Sold—Montford Cove Road Nearly Completed.

The McDowell Highway Commission met in its office in the court house Monday to receive bids on \$100,000 on county highway bonds. A number of bids were considered, the highest being that of A. T. Bell & Company, of Toledo, Ohio, offering in addition to the face of the bonds a premium of something over \$3,000.00, which was accepted. Owing to unsatisfactory conditions of the bond market at this time the commissioners feel that they have secured a fair return for these bonds.

Actual work in constructing roads is going forward as fast as possible. The engineer is locating roads in different sections of the county. The road in Montford Cove township is practically graded and if open weather continues it is only a question of a few weeks when this road will be completed. The bridges will be erected as soon as the material can be placed on the ground, after which the road will be thrown open to the public. A considerable part of this road is already in use.

The Montford Cove road begins at the Marion township line, running through the entire Montford valley to the Rutherford county line. It is being built strictly according to government specifications and when finished will be a great asset to this part of the county.

## Red Cross Seals Now on Sale.

Red Cross Christmas Seals were placed on sale in virtually every community in North Carolina last Monday, the sale to continue ten days. A total of 9,000,000 seals are being offered for sale in the State this year, of a value of \$90,000. The funds derived from the sale of the seals will be used in the State for the cure and prevention of tuberculosis.

"Last year tuberculosis killed 3,391 people in North Carolina. In the same period there were approximately 27,000 open and active cases of the disease in the State. The economic loss from this one cause was in excess of \$15,000,000 for the year. The reduction in the number of deaths from this cause during the last four years has been about 12 per cent. Tuberculosis is preventable and curable."

The funds for the continued campaign against this source of sorrow and loss is largely financed by the sale of Red Cross Christmas seals. Buy them today.

## NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

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

### CHAPEL HILL

Chapel Hill, Dec. 1.—Appropriate Thanksgiving exercises were held at the Chapel Hill school house Wednesday afternoon. Mr. J. E. Kanipe, principal of the school, made a brief talk on the origin of thanksgiving, after which the pupils of the school gave a splendid program consisting of songs, recitations, plays, etc. A number of patrons were present and the program was enjoyed by all present. The stage was artistically decorated with autumn leaves. The school is progressing nicely under the leadership of Mr. Kanipe, assisted by Miss Lona Goforth, and the patrons seem well pleased with their work.

Mrs. Ada Belk, of Jefferson City, Tenn., is visiting her father, Mills Hicks, who is very ill.

Miss Lona Goforth spent Thanksgiving with homefolks at Dysartville.

Arthur Hicks, of Atlanta, Ga., is spending a few days at the bedside of his father here.

Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Holland spent Thursday in Stroud Town at the home of the latter's uncle, W. M. England.

Misses Evelyn and Thelma Holland spent Thanksgiving with relatives at Rockpath.

W. A. Proctor is confined home suffering with blood poison. We hope he will soon recover.

### OLD FORT

Old Fort, Dec. 2.—Geo. B. Strickland attended the golden wedding anniversary of his parents in the eastern part of the state last week and also attended the State Teachers' assembly in Raleigh.

Miss Grace Arney of Davenport College spent the week-end here with her mother, Mrs. D. F. Arney.

Miss Hannah Starnes of Davenport College spent the week-end with Miss Grace Arney.

Mrs. G. B. Strickland and daughter, Elizabeth were shopping in Asheville last Friday.

Wayman Tripp, of Hickory spent Thanksgiving in Old Fort.

Carl Greene and Jack Hoffman attended the dance by the management of the McDowell in Marion Thursday night.

Miss Hannah Shrock spent Thanksgiving in Murphy.

Miss Frances Artz was in Asheville the latter part of the week.

Misses Pearl Evans, Essie Mashburn and Floyd Tate spent last Friday at Montreat.

Miss Maude Crawford spent the week end in Asheville.

Alvis Allison has gone to Durham to accept a position.

Ed White and Reid Grant have accepted positions with an electrical company in Winston-Salem.

The girls' basketball team of the Old Fort high school have a game scheduled with Montreat next Saturday.

Misses Emma Allison and Martha Hyams spent the week-end with relatives in Morganton.

Rev. and Mrs. R. F. Brigham spent Monday with Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Burgin on their way to Asheville where Mr. Brigham attended the Wesleyan Methodist conference.

Miss Myrtle McCurry spent Thanksgiving with Mrs. Lonnie Burgin on Crooked Creek.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Connor, a daughter.

Clarence Mauney is very ill with influenza.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. James Young, a daughter.

An enjoyable party was given in honor of Miss Thelma Hyams at the home of her parents last Wednesday night. Those present were: Misses Gertrude Dula, Annie White, Jennie Stirewalt, Mamie Greene, Mamie Wadley, Pearl Evans and Bonnie Fortune, Mrs. Murphy, Messrs. Jack Hoffman, Alvis Allison, Harry Burgin, Carl Greene and Joe Crawford.

### ASHFORD

Ashford, Dec. 1.—Messrs. H. S. Brown, J. O. Wilson, S. M. McCall,

Sam Brown, Sam McCall and J. G. Brown made a business trip to Marion today.

Misses Tennie and Beatrice Brown and Iva McCall, of Nebo High School, spent Thanksgiving with homefolks here.

Quite a number of young folks enjoyed a party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Swafford on Thursday evening.

Bascom Franklin, of Linville Falls, and Miss Katherine Bough of Crossnore were visitors here Saturday.

Robert Burleson and Lucy Franklin, of Linville Falls, were visitors here Sunday.

Fred and Bennie Brown spent the week-end with homefolks.

Mrs. Pearl Higgins, Miss Minnie Bailey and Mrs. Elizabeth Higgins were guests of Mrs. W. H. Swafford last week.

On last night Misses Beatrice and Gays Brown delightfully entertained a large number of young folks at their home. Music and games made the evening enjoyable for all present.

The Ashford school is planning a Christmas programme for the holidays.

### GREENLEE

Greenlee, Dec. 1.—Mrs. H. A. Tate has been quite ill for some time but is improving.

Mrs. John Hogan and little daughter of Marion spent the week-end here with homefolks.

Mrs. D. G. Ledbetter is visiting her mother in South Carolina.

Zeb. V. Snipes has returned home from overseas. We heartily welcome him home again.

## Clinchfield School Building About Completed.

The new high school building at the Clinchfield mill will be completed and ready for use in time for the Christmas entertainment. The finishing touches are now being put on and as soon as the furniture for the class rooms and auditorium has been received and installed the building will be ready for use. The new building is being erected at a cost of about \$50,000.00. It has an ample number of class rooms, auditorium and basement. A large room is being fitted up in the basement for domestic science work. The auditorium is one of the most magnificent that can be found in a school building anywhere in the state. It will have a seating capacity of nearly 1,000.

The building is equipped in a strictly modern manner. It has electric lights, steam heat, water and the best quality of furniture that can be purchased.

The Clinchfield school, from a standpoint of numbers, is one of the largest in the county. The enrollment is considerably higher than in any mill village. The people of the Clinchfield community are greatly interested in the education of their children and are proud of the new building and equipment which is to be used for this purpose.

## Work on New Building Making Much Headway.

The work on the new building for the firm of Gaston & Tate is moving along at a rapid rate. The basement is practically finished, ready for the brick work to begin.

The new structure is to be modern in every respect. It will be a handsome two-story brick building equipped with the latest appliances. The first floor will be devoted to the sales and display departments of the firm's general line of merchandise, while on the second floor will be office suites.

## RESTRICT USE OF COAL

Stores and Manufacturing Plants Must Observe Certain Hours to Reduce Coal Consumption.

Orders drastically restricting the use of coal by practically every class of consumer in the south were issued by the regional coal committee last Saturday night, the new orders becoming effective at noon Monday. War time restrictions were virtually reinaugurated by the new rule. The order was necessary, the committee pointed out, to conserve the now rapidly diminishing fuel supply.

Stores, manufacturing plants and warehouses are restricted in the use of heat and light to hours between 9 a. m. and 4 p. m. Ornamental lights, white way lights, electric sign boards or illuminating bill boards will be prohibited between the hours of 7 a. m. and 4 p. m.

Only enough heat may be used in offices and warehouses and manufacturing to keep the temperature at 70 degrees. Moving picture houses, theatres and other places of amusement may maintain this temperature from 1:30 p. m. to 10:30 p. m.

Manufacturing plants and factories are put on a forty-eight-hour a week basis by the committee's orders.

The committee allowed several exceptions: Drug stores, for the sale of drugs only and restaurants are allowed to maintain their present schedule, but must curtail lights where possible.

Barbershops are allowed to remain open between the hours of 8 a. m. and 6 p. m.

General office lights may remain on after 4 p. m. where the operation of vital industry is involved.

Railroad stations, telephone, telegraph and newspaper offices are exempted from the light restrictions.

On Saturdays the time of closing is extended to 9 p. m. for stores selling food and wearing apparel.

Dairies, and refrigerating plants, bakeries, plants for the manufacture of necessary medical products, sewerage plants, gas and water-works plants, plants operating continuous processes, printing plants of newspapers and periodicals with battery charging outfits and plants producing lights and power for telephone or telegraph or public utilities are exempted from restrictions put on light and power.

## Victory Loan Figures for McDowell

A report of the Victory Liberty Loan, compiled by the federal reserve bank of Richmond and recently issued, gives certain statistics relating to the loan which illustrates the banking resources of the county:

The population of the county is given as 18,000, with 3,000 at Marion and 1,000 at Old Fort, the two banking centers.

The resources of the First National Bank are placed at \$866,000, those of The Merchants & Farmers Bank at \$215,000, and the Bank of Old Fort at \$128,000. Through these banks respectively were subscribed to the Victory Loan \$66,250, \$20,450, and \$22,050, making the total for the county \$110,650. The number of subscribers is given as 290.