

# MARION PROGRESS

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

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## WISEMAN CASE AFFIRMED

### No New Trial for Accused Slayer of Dr. E. A. Hennessee in Burke County.

Raleigh, Dec. 20.—Aaron Wiseman lost his life in a 3 to 2 vote of the Supreme court today which finds no error in Judge Ben Long's trial of the famous case in which Wiseman was indicted for the murder of Dr. E. A. Hennessee, Burke county.

A new trial had been generally expected. When the case was argued before the highest court, S. J. Ervin, of Morganton, made a broadside attack on the court below. Justices Allen and Brown dissenting today cannot repress the feeling that the jury resolved reasonable doubt too easily and they cannot feel that Judge Long kept well his own views from those triers.

Judge Allen writes the dissent and Chief Justice Clark the majority opinion with Justices Walker and Hoke agreeing with him. The court's opinion rests wholly on the jury's agreement on the evidence. The chief justice sees no place where the court may interpose if the jury could find satisfaction with the evidence. The chief does not think that Judge Long made reviewable errors anywhere. The jury having passed the buck to the chief justice that gentleman forwards it to the governor.

The next move will be before Bickett.

The defense never has believed that the prosecution will ask that this verdict stand. The state has a theory that Wiseman knows more than he has told. It expects him to tell more.

## Railroad Measure Passed Senate.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The Cummins bill paying the way for return of the railroads to private operation passed the senate late today by a vote of 46 to 30, ending a prolonged discussion of the measure, and making the holiday recess of congress possible. It went through without change in the anti-strike and other important provisions around which the senate measure was drawn, and was sent to conference for adjustment during the recess with the Esch bill, passed by the house November 17. Final enactment of the permanent railroad reorganization legislation is hoped for by leaders early next month.

The ultimate disposition of the railroad problem, however, still is in doubt as the senate and house will be on January 1, the date previously set by President Wilson for return of the lines to their owners. No further word regarding his present intentions reached congress before adjournment over the holidays.

Unless vetoed by the President, the pending legislation, according to plans of congressional leaders, would require return of the roads by January 31. The railroad administration, however, has plans ready for their return January 1 under a presidential proclamation, should Mr. Wilson adhere to his announced program.

Services at St. John's Episcopal next Sunday at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Services Christmas day at 11 a. m.

## Mrs. A. Blanton County Chairman Armenian-Syrian Relief.

Announcement has just been made that Mrs. A. Blanton has been appointed chairman of the Armenian and Syrian Relief campaign in McDowell county and selected to put the county "over the top" in the drive for the adoption of homeless children of the Near East. The newly appointed chairman will soon begin her work which will include a Christmas appeal in behalf of hundreds of naked, hungry and homeless little ones who are today pleading to Americans for just a morsel and a place to lay their heads in peace.

In accepting the responsibility of the relief work in the county, the newly named chairman is expected to have no trouble in securing the adoption of the county's quota of orphans. She will have the assistance of loyal workers and will wage his drive with a confidence that characterized her previous war efforts during similar campaigns for relief.

The mission of the Near East Relief is almost identical to that of American Red Cross and in some instances both organizations are cooperating in giving the necessary aid to the sufferers in Armenia and Syria.

## Young Folks Home for Holidays.

The following young folks have returned from the various colleges to spend the holidays with home-folks: Joseph and Sam Story, Paul Banner and John Potat, of Davidson College; Guy Kirby, University, Chapel Hill; Misses Sarah Hodgins and Margie White, Grayson Neal and Hubert Martin, Trinity College, Durham; Misses Mary Hodgins and Gertrude Jones, Greensboro College for Women, Greensboro; Miss Ida McGuire, Flora MacDonald College, Red Springs; Miss Sara Troutman, Marion College, Marion, Va.; Miss Margie Kirby, Virginia College, Roanoke, Va.; Albert Blanton, Augusta Military Academy, Fort Defiance, Va.; Miss Virginia Bannér, Charlotte; Miss Loma James, "Brevard"; Edwin Pless, Blue Ridge School, Hendersonville; Miss Virginia Holmes, Salem College, Winston-Salem; Glenn McCall, Oak Ridge.

## Etowah Tribe Elects Officers.

Officers for the term beginning the first sun cold moon and ending the first sun buck moon (January 1 to July 1) were elected in the wigwam of Etowah Tribe No. 147, Improved Order Red Men, at the Clinchfield mill last Friday night. Chiefs are as follows: Prophet, J. Boyd Farrow, Jr.; Sachem, C. W. Wilson; Senior Sagamore, P. V. Nichols; Junior Sagamore, T. V. Lusk; Chief of Records, S. N. Bradford; Keeper of Wampum, W. L. Lindsay; Tribal Deputy, H. F. Little. Trustees: H. F. Little 18 months; O. C. Copeland 12 months; and G. H. Taylor six months. Representatives to great State council in May, C. W. Wilson and C. W. Green.

The newly elected chiefs will be "raised" by Deputy Sachem Hugh F. Little on Friday night, Jan. 2.

Etowah Tribe was organized only about three months ago with thirty members. The membership has increased to 70.

## NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

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

#### OLD FORT

Old Fort, Dec. 22.—Earl Bradley has arrived from the University and is spending the holidays with his parents. William Burgin, Hugh Tate and Sidney Manney, of the State College, are spending the holidays with their parents here.

Bulow Grant is spending Christmas with his parents here. Mr. Grant holds an important position with a rubber company in Akron, Ohio.

Jack Allison and William Allen, of Akron, Ohio, are spending the holidays with their parents here.

Miss Mabel Crawford has returned from a visit in Asheville.

Miss Mae Jordan is spending the holidays with her parents here. Miss Jordan is teaching at Garden City.

Miss Grace Arney, of Davenport College, is home for the holidays. R. E. Crawford of Asheville visited his parents here during the week.

Misses Millie and Bulah Kanipe, of the State Normal, are spending the holidays with their parents here.

Miss Gertrude Durham, of the State Normal College, is visiting here.

Jack Hoffman, an overseas veteran, is spending Christmas with his parents in Old Fort.

Lee Lavender is in town for the holidays.

A party was given at the home of Miss Gertrude Dala last Friday evening in honor of the Black Mountain high school basketball team.

Reid Grant of Greensboro is spending the holidays with his parents here.

The Black Mountain High School team was defeated in a basketball game here last Friday by the score of 20 to 6. The game was highly contested in the first half, the score standing 6 to 6, but in the second half the visiting team was entirely outclassed.

## CROSS MILL VILLAGE

Marion, Dec. 23.—We have a very progressive little village with a nice new church and good people.

School closed Friday for the holidays with a short and well rendered program and a Christmas tree for the children. Our school has had a very successful term with Mrs. Blanche Holland as principal and Miss Nell McCurry, assistant.

The Cross Mill Debating Society met Saturday evening for its weekly contest. The question discussed was "Resolved, That the Works of Nature Are More Admired Than the Art of Man." The speakers for the affirmative were G. R. Freeman and L. B. Payne; for negative, D. A. Fox and Gordon Wilson. Both sides put up a splendid argument. The judges decided in favor of the negative.

There are several cases of smallpox in the village.

Mrs. Thomas Brown underwent an operation for appendicitis at the McDowell Hospital a few days ago.

F. O. Stott has moved into his new store building on corner Main street and Central highway. The new building is equipped with an up-to-date lighting system.

## New Officers for Mt. Ida Lodge.

At the regular meeting of Mt. Ida Lodge No. 58, Knights of Pythias, held last Thursday night, officers for the coming year were elected as follows: J. C. Story, chancellor commander; I. W. Saunders, vice-chancellor; B. P. Davis, prelate; R. L. Gilkey, master of works; H. H. Tate, keeper of records and seals; J. H. Tate, master of exchequer; W. A. Sweehey, master of arms; L. D. Greene, inner guard, and H. L. Pageth, outer guard. The new officers will be installed at the regular meeting in January.

Register of Deeds T. L. Epley reports that for the year ending December 1, 1919, he has issued 210 marriage licenses, an increase of eighteen over the previous year.

## Sentences of All Life Terms Are Commuted.

Governor Thomas W. Bickett Saturday issued a sweeping order commuting to thirty years each, the sentences of all the life termers in the North Carolina state prison. "I am opposed to eternal punishment in this world," said the governor, explaining his action and insisting that the prison sentence depriving a man of his freedom should not also deprive him of his hope.

Included in the commutations are thirty-five prisoners, twenty-three negroes and twelve whites. The prisoners include two women, one, Sarah Wykoff, convicted in 1879 of murder. The life term of Ida Ball Warren and Samuel Preston Christy whose trial and conviction in Winston-Salem in 1916 attracted national attention, are among those commuted.

## Farmers Union Officers Elected.

At the meeting of the McDowell Farmers' Union held in Marion last Saturday the following officers were elected for the year: L. H. Miller, president; G. W. Lytle, vice-president; C. M. Pool, secretary and treasurer; J. A. Walker, chaplain; D. M. Curtis, conductor; J. G. McCall, doorkeeper. The executive committee is composed of G. G. Pendergrass, T. A. Porter and W. A. Houck.

The next regular meeting of the union will be held at the courthouse in Marion on the first Saturday in March.

## Is There Profiteering?

Much has been said of late about the scarcity of houses in Marion and people are asking "Why does not some one build houses to rent?"

If they will go to any contractor or builder and figure with him on the cost of building, then try to secure a lot on which to build I think they will find the answer to the question.

An editorial in the last issue of The Progress states there are a few instances of profiteering in rents in Marion. This should be investigated and if true due punishment meted out to the offenders. But is there any profiteering? Any one who has had experience in renting houses will tell you that they must get at least 10% on their investment in order to realize a net profit of 6%. Would any fair minded person call that profiteering? I think not, and yet I doubt if many in Marion are getting more than that, and some I know are getting far less.

My heart goes out to the poor down-trodden fellows who are being forced, by the base profiteer, into buying homes for themselves; but as the years roll on and they pay their taxes, insurance, and perhaps interest on money borrowed to pay for their homes, the house needs repainting and re-shingling, and the plumbing repairing, methinks they will say with other citizens, "There is a satisfaction in owning a home but as a business proposition it is better to rent." X. Y. Z.

The Logan-Walker Construction company, a recently organized corporation with an authorized capital of \$2,000, have the sub-contract for the graded road between Dartsville and Marion.

## STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

### Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

Twenty-three illicit distilleries were destroyed and a number of arrests of operatives were made during raids last week in Wilkes county.

John H. Buchanan was killed near Clariessa, Mitchell county, last Wednesday, when a large limb that he and his son, McKinley, had been cutting from a tree fell and pinned him against the tree.

James R. Duke has contributed \$10,000 through Trinity college for the benefit of superannate preachers and widows and orphans of deceased preachers of the Methodist church in North Carolina.

## Congress Adjourns for Holidays.

Congress adjourned Saturday night until January 5, for its holiday vacation. Under the holiday urge, more business was transacted Saturday than often goes through in a month. Left for action in January, however, were many important measures, including the German peace treaty.

Closing hours of the senate were enlivened by two moves toward a compromise on the treaty, but the question of ratification went over.

## 23 Persons Killed in Collision.

Onawa, Maine, Dec. 20.—Twenty-three deaths resulted from a head-on collision between an immigrant train and a freight train on the Canadian Pacific Railway, two miles west of Onawa today. Seventeen persons were killed outright and six died after being removed from the scene of the wreck. Fifty passengers were injured, many of them seriously.

## Resolutions of Respect.

Death entered the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Hemphill on the evening of November 30, 1919, and took from loved ones at home to the home eternal Annie Sue Hemphill, a faithful and devoted member of our Baptist Young Peoples Union.

Whereas God in his great wisdom has seen fit to remove her from our midst, and knowing the loss that we have sustained by the death of our beloved member, be it resolved therefore:

1st. That her memory be cherished by us, and that we ever hold before our Baptist Young Peoples' Union of the First Baptist church her faithfulness and loyalty to the cause of God as a model for us to strive for.

2nd. While our hearts are heavy because she will not meet with us here again, still be bow in submission to the will of our Heavenly Father, giving thanks unto Him for such a life as hers and comforting ourselves with the knowledge that He doeth all things well.

3rd. That we extend our heartfelt sympathy and love to the father, mother, brothers and sister and pray that they may realize that "He who is nearer than breathing, closer than hands and feet," is ever ready to comfort those who mourn.

4th. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family, one be recorded on the minutes of our Union and that a copy be sent our county newspaper for publication.

MRS. W. F. GRANT,  
MRS. L. R. COWAN,  
MISS DAPHNE RUTH,  
Committee.

Isaac Giles arrived yesterday from the University, Chapel Hill, to spend Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Giles.