

MARION PROGRESS

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

ESTABLISHED 1896.

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 1920

VOL. XXIV—NO. 23

DISASTROUS EXPLOSION

Three Men Killed and Two Injured by Explosion of Sawmill Boiler Near Black Mountain.

An explosion at the big saw mills of the Broad River Lumber company, located in McDowell county, about six miles from Black Mountain, Monday afternoon resulted in the death of three men and serious injuries received by two others. The dead are: Harold Taylor, a hand at the mill; Fred Garrison, fireman, and Raymond Barnwell, logger, and the injured, Frank Young, miller, and one unidentified employee.

The explosion is said to have been caused by too much steam, which wrecked the plant, driving pieces of the boiler through the men, two of whom were badly mangled. Barnwell had just come in with a trail of logs and taken a seat on a log near the boiler when the explosion occurred and parts of his body are said to have been blown 200 feet. Medical aid was summoned from Black Mountain but by the time doctors could reach the scene, three of the men had died.

The plant is owned by E. L. Gaston, of Asheville.

Norton-Bolton

On last Saturday afternoon at 6 o'clock at her home on Park Hill Miss Mayme Norton, only daughter of Mr. J. C. Norton, was united in marriage to Mr. John W. Bolton, of Richmond, Va. Miss Norton, attractively gowned in a traveling suit of dark blue cloth with dark furs and hat, accompanied by Miss Mary Lassiter, entered the living room, which was prettily decorated in pink carnations and asparagus ferns, where she was met by Mr. Bolton and the ceremony performed by Rev. B. S. Lassiter in the presence of a few intimate friends.

Miss Norton has lived in Marion for several years. She is well known here and has many friends. Mr. Norton holds a responsible position with the Southern Power Company as superintendent of construction work at Bridgewater. He also has many friends and is very popular with his employees.

Mr. and Mrs. Bolton left on train No. 21 for a few days' stay in Asheville and will later take an extended trip North.

American Legion Meeting Saturday

Much interest is being manifested in the meeting to be held at the McDowell Hotel in Marion next Saturday at 4 o'clock by the organizers of the local post of the American Legion.

The meeting is being held for the purpose of electing officers and it is desired that every McDowell County veteran of the World War be in attendance, if possible.

This organization is going to be one of the strongest patriotic orders in the country and, representing as it does every high ideal of Americanism, and it is to be hoped that the McDowell post shall be one of the strongest and most enthusiastic in the state.

Mrs. Arthur Nichols and baby are recovering from an attack of influenza.

Change in Business.

Several changes in business have been made in Marion during the past few days.

The Davis Pharmacy has changed hands, Messrs. W. L. Landis and Joseph Schafhausen being the purchasers. Mr. Landis is a McDowell boy. He attended the school of his home community and graduated from Nebo High School. He taught successfully for a few years. He was a volunteer in the service of his country during the world war, making a record of which to be proud. Mr. Schafhausen is a druggist of long experience. He comes to Marion well recommended.

Mr. Davis expects to return to Henderson, N. C., where he will engage in business. He has been in Marion for a number of years. He had succeeded in building up a good business. Taking a prominent part in the church and community life, he has made many personal as well as business friends who will regret to learn that he is leaving Marion.

W. O. Ledbetter & Bro. have sold their grocery store to Lee Conley and Paul Banner, both of Marion. The transfer was made last week and the new proprietors are now in charge. The Ledbetter boys have been in business in Marion for a number of years. They have made a reputation for themselves for quality of goods and square dealing. They have not as yet announced their plans for the future but expect to remain identified with the business life of the town. The new owners are both well known in Marion. They are young men of sterling qualities whose progress will be watched with interest by their many friends.

Mr. A. W. Grayson, who has been in business in Marion for a number of years, last week sold his grocery store to Messrs. J. F. Cantrell and W. E. Smith, of Landrum, S. C. Mr. Grayson is well and favorably known throughout the county. He enjoyed a good trade and has made a reputation for honesty and square dealing. Messrs. Cantrell and Smith come to Marion as successful business men. They both have families and expect to move here as soon as they can get houses.

Veneer Plant Will Be Enlarged.

The Penn Veneer Plant is to be enlarged at an early date. A panel department is to be added. Mr. W. K. M. Gilkey, manager, has been to Knoxville and purchased the new machinery for the addition to the plant.

The management of the plant has been under Mr. Gilkey for some time. It has been very successfully managed, as evidenced by its wide and growing patronage.

J. K. Cowan Ill.

Mr. J. K. Cowan, County Superintendent of Public Welfare, is seriously ill at the McDowell Hospital, suffering from pneumonia. Mr. Cowan had been confined to his room several days last week on account of cold. He improved and went out Sunday, suffering a relapse. While very sick, from last reports he is doing as well as could be expected.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

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

OLD FORT

Old Fort, Feb. 10.—William Stirewalt has returned from Akron, Ohio, where he has been visiting.

Paul Harmon is visiting his parents here.

Carl Greene has returned from a visit to Asheville.

F. M. Bradley and Willard Crawford were in Asheville Saturday on business. Miss Ethel Miller has recovered from a severe attack of influenza.

Dewey Bradley has gone to Johnson City, Tenn., where he has accepted a position.

Miss Elizabeth Strickland has recovered from a severe case of influenza.

The Boy Scouts met Tuesday at the School Auditorium and gave a public demonstration of scout craft.

Miss Pearl Evans has returned to St. Pauls to recover from a severe case of flu. Miss Gertrude Dula is recovering from a case of influenza.

The number of cases of influenza are decreasing and if the present rate of decrease continues we will soon be free from the disease.

The Old Fort High School Girls' basketball team defeated the Marion High School Girls' team by a score of 12 to 6.

MONTFORDS COVE

Nealsville, N. C., Feb. 9.—We have been having some very cold weather lately and the roads are very muddy at present.

James Davis of Uree was buried at the Cove Sunday. Heart trouble was the cause of his death. We sympathize with the bereaved family and friends.

Andrew Wilkerson, who has been seriously sick, is rapidly improving. We hope for him a speedy recovery.

Miss Clara Harris, a student of Round Hill school, is spending some time with home folks.

A. J. Wilkerson of Biltmore is visiting his father who is quite ill.

Rev. W. R. Harris of West Asheville is spending some time with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Harris

George Freedy and family moved to Rutherfordton last week.

George Hensley is right sick. We hope he will soon be out again.

Mrs. W. P. Ledbetter, who has been quite ill, is able to be out again.

Miss Maude Ledbetter was the guest of her aunt, Mrs. Laura Flack, Saturday. Mrs. John Byrd visited her father here one day last week.

NEBO

Nebo, Feb. 10.—Quite a number of young people from around Nebo visited the Power dam Sunday afternoon.

We are very sorry to learn of Rev. Mr. Brittain's illness. He is now unable to fill his appointments. We hope he will recover soon.

Will Landis of Marion spent Sunday with his aunt, Mrs. G. D. Taylor. Miss Vivian Parks is spending this week with relatives on Linville.

E. L. Tate was called home from his work in Georgia on account of the illness of his wife. She is still in the McDowell Hospital, but we are glad to say she is rapidly improving. Hope she will be able to return home soon.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Redman, a son.

Mrs. Gibson Dies of Pneumonia.

Mrs. J. L. Gibson died Saturday morning at 9 o'clock at her home in Stroudtown, following an illness of influenza and pneumonia.

Mrs. Gibson was 60 years of age and in survived by her husband and seven children. She was a sister to T. E. Snipes of Marion and had a wide circle of friends in the county who will be grieved to learn of her death.

The funeral services were conducted from the residence Sunday afternoon by Rev. Waycaster and interment made in Stroudtown cemetery.

Educational Survey Being Made of McDowell Schools

An educational survey of the schools of McDowell is being conducted in this county during this week. This survey consists of tests being given to the various grades of every school in the county. It is being conducted by the State Education commission, the actual work being supervised by experts in this line of work. Among those aiding in the tests in McDowell are D. F. Giles, T. A. Holton, J. E. Kanipe, Miss Ethel Terrell, county superintendent of Buncombe schools, under the direction of Prof. Shaw of Columbia University.

The tests are sent to Raleigh to be examined and graded. The information obtained through these tests will doubtless be used as a basis on which recommendations will be made to the legislature relative to the school work in North Carolina.

Washing Machines Installed by Cross Mills.

Mr. Eugene Cross has added a washing department to his mill. The machines have been purchased and will be installed as soon as possible. Mr. Cross will not undertake to turn out a finished laundered product but will do only washing. He says he expects to be able to do the washing for as many as 150 families. A delivery wagon will be operated which will call for and deliver the family wash.

With the scarcity of help the news of even a washing department will be read with interest by the housewives in Marion. They can get the washing done for the family, which will be better than having to do both washing and ironing.

Accident Sunday Night.

Harry Hunter, whose home is at Nebo, suffered a very serious accident last Sunday night while at his post of duty as brakeman on the Southern railway. He was found unconscious by members of the crew lying on top of a car with his skull badly fractured, it being thought that the accident occurred while passing through the tunnel near the top of the mountain. He was brought to Marion and placed in the McDowell Hospital where an operation was performed by Drs. Kirby and Ashworth. While in a very serious condition, hopes are entertained for his recovery.

Wholesale Drug Company Organized for Marion.

A wholesale drug company has been organized in Marion, with K. A. Kirby, Dr. G. S. Kirby, Guy Kirby and others as stockholders. The new concern has made application for a charter with an authorized capital of \$50,000.

The new business will fill a long felt need in this section. Asheville is the nearest point where drugs can be purchased, and with the large section to be served radiating from Marion as it does makes Marion the central and convenient point for the trade. The promoters are all known successful business and professional men. That they would succeed in the new business is not to be questioned.

STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

J. J. Britt, of Asheville, announces that he will not be a candidate for the republican nomination for governor.

William Wiggins, near Robbinsville, Graham County, was shot and killed by his son, Ross Wiggins the past week. Fell out over a banjo.

The Burnsville Eagle has suspended publication until print paper is reduced to a reasonable price. The Eagle was established twenty-three years ago.

Rev. Dr. J. C. Rowe, one of the best known ministers of the Western North Carolina Methodist Conference, late pastor of South Main Street church, Salisbury, died Tuesday morning at his home in Salisbury, death resulting from pneumonia following influenza. He was 71 years old.

Influenza Epidemic Not Improved.

The influenza epidemic throughout the county is not very much improved. The disease is now reported from nearly every section of the county. While in an epidemic state, it is of a milder form than last year. It appears to be more severe in some sections than others. Several cases of pneumonia have been reported and a few deaths.

The people are exercising every precaution to avoid the disease, which is necessary to prevent a general and serious epidemic. The health authorities are keeping close watch and if necessary will pass measures to protect the public.

Old Building Removed.

Old Fort, Feb. 9.—Probably the oldest house in this section, the original Thomas Lytle house, was recently torn down by the present owner, M. F. Hensley, and some old relics of interest discovered. Shop-made nails were used in the building and the points of most of these nails are as bright as when the blacksmith made them. The house was built perhaps 120 years ago with hewn logs about seven inches thick and ceiled with broad ceiling, twelve inches or more in width. An old letter to Mr. Lytle from C. Mackey of Buncombe county, bears date of Nov. 11, 1855, and refers to the sale of a steer. Among other relics found was a half-dime made in 1838, a one-cent copper piece and a wild boar tusk, or tooth, over 6½ inches long. The grant to the land was made in 1797.

Eugene Cross returned Thursday from Mississippi, his old home, where he went last week to attend the funeral of his mother. Mrs. Cross had visited her son in Marion several times and had many friends here who will be grieved to learn of her death.

Mr. E. B. Barber, who has been ill for several weeks, has been suffering from an abscess and an attack of la grippe, instead of influenza, as erroneously stated in the Progress last week. Mr. Barber is improving and is able to be out again.