

MARION PROGRESS

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PROPERTY VALUATION

Work of Re-valuation for McDowell Completed—Valuation Over Twenty Million Dollars.

The work of re-valuation of property in McDowell county is now about completed. This work was commenced several months ago under the supervision of Mr. T. W. Wilson. Owing to pressing private business, Mr. Wilson was compelled to resign, and Mr. J. L. Nichols was elected to take up the work. During his term of service, Mr. Wilson was very efficient and gave entire satisfaction to the people of the county. Mr. Nichols being well qualified to the task, has been able to direct the work in a very business-like manner and to the satisfaction of the property holders of the county. Mr. W. M. Sweeney, James Haney, and Mrs. W. M. McNairy have been valuable co-workers in this huge task. In fact it was due to their efficiency and co-operation that the work has been completed in such an able and efficient manner.

The totals show that the actual valuation of all the property is something over twenty million dollars. Under the old valuation, the highest that the property has ever shown on the tax books has been around seven million. Owing to the painstaking work of the re-valuation board, it is thought that McDowell county has its property 100 per cent on the tax books and at as nearly a cash value as safe and conservative business people could determine. The raise has been on all classes of property. Private property, corporations and all other property shared alike at the hands of the board of assessors.

The purpose of the re-valuation is to equalize the tax burden. Under the old system of valuation it was almost impossible to have all the property assessed on an equal basis. One man would give in one-half of his property at one-half of its value, while another man would give in all of his property at full value, thus working a hardship on the man who listed his property at full value. Under the new system of valuation all property being listed at cash value, every taxpayer will be compelled to pay his part of the taxes. Under the law it will not be possible for taxes to be raised very materially, as the law provides that not more than 10 per cent net taxes can be collected during the coming year than were collected last year. This does not mean that no taxpayer will pay more than 10 per cent increase in taxes, because the taxpayer who has assessed only part of his property at a small per cent of its value, will probably pay more taxes, while on the other hand the property owner who has been honest and has placed his property at a fair valuation will, no doubt, pay less taxes.

When the people become familiar with the new law, it is thought that it will be the most popular law on the statute books. There has been much complaint for the past years about inequality of taxation, and now that all property will be taxed on an equal basis, there is little room for complaint.

McDowell county is to be congratulated for having had as its assessors a board of ability and business experience. They have endeavored to treat all alike and to see to it that no property owner secured an advantage over any other property owner. While there may be a few errors, yet the work as a whole stands as a monument to those who have given it their untiring attention and have stuck to the task until its completion.

Auction Sale Postponed.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the auction sale of the M. B. Potat place, advertised to be sold last Saturday, was postponed until July 3. Full announcement of the sale will be made next week.

Conley-Giles Wedding.

A beautiful wedding occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Conley Wednesday at high noon when their daughter, Miss Ada Conley, became the bride of Mr. Ernest Neal Giles, of Glen Alpine. The home was beautifully decorated in Dorothy Perkins roses and greenery and the vows were spoken in the spacious parlor under an arch of roses and evergreens.

The bridal party entered to the strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march played by Miss Bessie Tate. The first to enter were the bridesmaids, Misses Edith Lonon and Anna Conley, sister of the bride. They were beautifully gowned in lavender organdie dresses, wearing lavender georgette picture hats and carrying bouquets of pink and lavender sweet peas. They were attended by the groomsmen, Messrs. Charles Giles and Thomas Garrison. Preceding the bride, the groom entered with his best man, Mr. Preston Pitts. The bride entered on the arm of the maid of honor, Miss Ruby Giles, who was gowned in a charming frock of white organdie with organdie picture hat, carrying white roses. The bride was her lovely self in white georgette with short veil and orange blossoms, carrying a shower bouquet of bride's roses and lilies of the valley. The groom waited for his bride at the improvised altar where the sacred vows were spoken. Rev. Parker Holmes, presiding elder of the Marion district, performed the ceremony, during which strains of "Isle of My Dreams" was softly played. A number of friends and relatives of the young couple attended the marriage.

A delightful informal reception followed the ceremony. Assisting Mr. and Mrs. Conley in receiving were Mrs. Ada Little, Mrs. J. H. Tate and Mrs. J. Clay Conley. The guests were invited to the dining room by Miss Jennie Conley, youngest sister of the bride, where refreshments were served by Misses Annie Little and Faye Conley, Mrs. Ben Price and Mrs. M. L. Justice. The decorations here were pink roses and pink and white sweet peas.

Many beautiful and useful gifts of cut glass, silver, china, and linen attested the esteem in which the young couple were held.

The bride is the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Conley and is very popular in the older as well as social set of Marion. Since leaving Converse College in the spring of 1918, she has been a successful teacher in the county schools of McDowell. The groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Hampton Giles and a young man of sterling character. He is connected in business with the Pitts and Giles Lumber Company.

Several cars filled with the bridal party and other friends attended the happy couple to Morganton where they took the train for Washington, Atlantic City and New York. After July 1st they will return to Rutherfordton, where they will make their home.

21 Buildings Destroyed in Earthquake in California.

Los Angeles, June 22.—A survey early today of the damage done by an earthquake last night indicated that Englewood, ten miles southwest of here, suffered much more severely than was at first reported.

Twenty-one business buildings in the town were practically destroyed, the town was deprived of light and gas and scores of dwellings were seriously damaged.

Many plate glass windows in Los Angeles were shattered by the shock, several buildings were otherwise injured and persons were struck by bricks shaken from chimneys. San Pedro, Long Beach, Santa Monica, and Venice also reported minor damage.

The death of Mrs. William Shipley, of Los Angeles, at Venice, a beach resort, was attributed to the earthquake.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

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

OLD FORT

Old Fort, June 22.—Mr. and Mrs. Wair of Spartanburg, S. C., are visiting Mrs. S. M. Hoffman.

Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Faw left today for Spruce Pine where they will make their home.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Pitts, a daughter.

Mrs. R. M. Boozer and Mrs. R. B. Hunter of Asheville spent Sunday with their mother, Mrs. J. W. Graham.

Mrs. Owen is visiting her daughter, Mrs. B. Y. Allison.

Mrs. P. H. Mashburn and daughter, Madeline, are spending a few days in Asheville.

Mrs. Joe Atkins has gone to Chattanooga, Tenn., on account of the serious illness of her sister, Miss Anna Martin.

Mrs. A. T. Burgin of Drexel, is visiting Mrs. C. H. Burgin.

Mrs. L. C. Cornwell and children are visiting Mrs. Cornwell's mother, Mrs. Stirewalt.

W. P. Terrell is visiting in Washington, Philadelphia and other Northern points.

CHAPEL HILL

Chapel Hill, June 21.—Miss Lena Swann of Marion spent the weekend with her father, J. A. Swann, who has been ill for the past few days.

The many friends of Noah Turner will be pleased to learn that he is improving.

Mrs. W. B. Roberson, who has been seriously ill, is slowly improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Huffman of Rhodhiss spent the weekend with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Huffman.

Farmers are badly behind with their work on account of heavy rains. Corn crops are looking prosperous. Wheat is about ready to harvest and is fairly good.

Quite a delegation of our young people attended the decoration at Glenwood, Sunday.

CROOKED CREEK

Old Fort, Rt. 2, June 21.—Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davis, June 12, a son.

Mrs. J. J. Carswell is on the sick list.

Lee Lavender and Carl Morris left Saturday for Gastonia where they have accepted positions.

Ed. Vess has entered the hospital to undergo an operation.

Mrs. James Lavender is on the sick list.

Some of the Things Labor Demands

The Federation of Labor adjourned its meeting at Montreal Saturday night. It re-elected Mr. Gompers president and endorsed the league of nations, without reservations. Labor's program, as outlined by the convention, demands:

Ratification of the peace treaty. Government ownership with Democratic operation of railroads.

Curb on profiteering and high cost of living.

Jailing of food and clothing profiteers.

Right to strike and abolition of compulsory arbitration and anti-strike legislation.

Hands off in Mexico by the United States government.

Indorsement of the Irish republic.

Right of collective bargaining.

Advances in wages wherever necessary to maintain the American standard of living.

Shorter work days, if necessary, to prevent unemployment.

Wm. G. McAdoo, who was considered the favorite among the Democrats for presidential nomination, announces that he will not permit his name to go before the convention.

Corpening-Landis.

Of much interest to their many friends throughout McDowell county will be the announcement of the marriage of Miss Estelle Corpening to Mr. Will Landis, both of Marion. The ceremony was performed by Rev. W. L. Hutchins at twelve o'clock noon, last Sunday, at the home of Mrs. Dora Nichols-Finley, where Miss Corpening has been living for several months. The wedding was a quiet affair, only members of the family and a few close friends being present.

The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Corpening who live near Marion. She is a graduate of Marion High School, and for the past several months has been the efficient clerk for McCall Brothers. She takes much interest in church and other community work, and is popular among a wide circle of friends.

Mr. Landis is the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Landis of Dysartsville. He attended the local high school of his home town, later graduating from the Nebo High School. He is an ex-service man, having seen service with the colors during the World War. Upon his discharge from the Army he returned to his native county, and entered the drug business. He is the proprietor of the Red Star Pharmacy, where he is carrying on a successful trade. He is a young man of sterling qualities and has many friends in Marion and McDowell county.

Immediately after the ceremony the young couple took train No. 11 for Spartanburg, Atlanta and other points. Upon their return they will make their home in Marion.

School Committeemen Have Successful Meeting.

For the first time in the history of the schools, the committeemen met at the court house on last Saturday, to discuss the school work for the coming year. Notwithstanding the fact that the weather was very inclement, the attendance was very good, there being some in attendance from the remotest districts in the county.

Supt. N. F. Steppe spoke of the school work and the situation as it confronts the authorities and committeemen at the present time. The new salary schedule and new school laws were gone into and explained in detail.

Several talks were made by committeemen on various school subjects. A very interesting discussion was made by C. C. Lisenbee, who spoke of the qualifications of a school committeeman. Mr. Lisenbee was listened to with much interest and his talk made a deep impression on those present.

After listening to several discussions of the school work and the duty of the committeemen, those in attendance at the Saturday meeting decided that an organization of the school committeemen could be made an instrument of much good. A vote was taken and it was unanimously decided to call a second meeting of the committeemen at the court house at 1:00 p. m., on the first Monday in July at which time an organization will be perfected and the school work for the county will be further discussed. Every school committeeman from every district in McDowell county is cordially invited to attend the meeting. The County Board of Education will be in session on this date, and will meet with the committee to find out their wishes, that they may be able to be of maximum service to the school committee and the school interests in McDowell county.

STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

Judge Frank Carter, who recently conducted papers at Albemarle and North Wilkesboro, has returned to the practice of law in Asheville.

Hickory's Fourth of July will be celebrated Monday, July 5, with all-day attractions. Airships, bands, pageants, parades, trapeze performers and other events are among the attractions already booked.

Negotiations are under way for the purchase of 1,500 acres of land lying along the Asheville-Hendersonville highway, involving more than \$500,000, have almost been completed by the Biltmore Estate Company. It is proposed to erect two 18 hole golf courses, a large tourist hotel and a country club. It is proposed to begin the erection of one of the golf courses at once.

Eleven persons of the Sandy Hook section of Lenoir county are recovering from a potmaine poisoning as a result of eating cake, one of the ingredients of which was "tinned" cocoanut. The 11 who are sick and 12 or 15 others attended a quilting party, where cocoanut cake was served. Several of those affected would have died, it is believed, if they had not received prompt medical attention.

Matters of News.

Spain is building the largest concrete ships in the world, one of 6,000 tons having been launched recently.

The United States Navy took up more than 55,000 mines in the Atlantic in less than six months after the armistice.

The 30th annual reunion and convention of the United Confederate Veterans will be held in Houston, Texas, October 6-10.

The lower house of the Louisiana Legislature voted down a resolution for the ratification of the Federal suffrage amendment and adopted a resolution putting that body on record as being against Federal suffrage.

Homer S. Cummings, chairman of the Democratic national committee, declared that the Democratic platform would endorse President Wilson's course regarding the league of nations by adopting the league plank incorporated by the Virginia platform, which the President already has approved.

Infant mortality rates for 1919 decreased materially as compared with the four previous years, according to statistics compiled by the census bureau. Of the twelve largest cities in the birth registration area, seven showed decreases of from 8.5 to 23.4 per cent, while the highest increase was 3.6 per cent.

A MAN'S CREED.

To live as gently as I can;
To be, no matter where, a man.
To take what comes of good or ill
And cling to faith and honor still.
To do my best, and let that stand
The record of my brain and hand;
And then, should failure come to me,
To try again for victory.