

# MARION PROGRESS

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

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## COUNTY COMMENCEMENT NEXT SATURDAY

### Large Crowd Expected—State Superintendent Brooks to Deliver Address.

From reports coming to the office of the County Superintendent of Schools indications are that there will be one of the largest crowds here for the county commencement exercises next Saturday that has ever assembled in Marion. School children from all sections will be present to march in the parade. The largest line of school children ever seen in the county will march down Main street at 10:30 a. m., provided Saturday is a fair day. In case the weather should be unfavorable the speaking program will be given and other parts of the exercises held without change.

The formal exercises will begin at 10:30 a. m., when school children assemble on upper Main street, form in line and march, under the direction of H. M. Roland, parade manager. At 11:30 the people will assemble at the court house and Dr. E. C. Brooks, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, will deliver the address of the occasion. Immediately following the address by Dr. Brooks the announcement of the winners in the various contests will be made and prizes delivered to the winning schools and pupils who have won in the different contests. At 2 p. m. the athletic contests will begin. A basketball game between the winning teams of the county and a game between Marion and Old Fort High schools will be given. This promises to be one of the chief features of the day and the contest will be keenly fought. After the basketball games racing and jumping contests will be held. Mr. John A. Potest, principal of Clinchfield school, will be manager and director of the athletic exercises. Practically every school committeeman in the county is expected to be on hand. Citizens and friends of education from all sections have indicated their intentions of attending these educational activities.

## ESCAPED CONVICT JAILED AFTER SHOOTING OFFICER

Considerable sensation was created last Wednesday afternoon when attempting to arrest Charles Helton, a noted desperado and an escaped convict from the State prison, he shot and seriously wounded Deputy Sheriff Biggerstaff in the Clinchfield section. Biggerstaff and other officers went to Helton's hiding place for the purpose of placing him under arrest. It is said that Helton made a break when he realized that the officers were close at hand, that he ran a short distance, then turned and lifted a shotgun to his shoulder, firing directly at the officers, the discharge taking effect in the breast of Biggerstaff. The officers fired on Helton as he fled but he succeeded in making his escape.

Sheriff Nichols received information Friday that Helton was in jail in Tennessee and proceeded to the Tennessee town to get his prisoner. Helton was brought to Marion Saturday and placed in the McDowell county jail.

Helton was arrested in this neighborhood some time ago and placed in jail but succeeded in making his escape. It is said he bears a reputation of a jail breaker and desperado. Biggerstaff while in a serious condition, is expected to recover. At first his life was despaired of but the latest reports are more favorable for his recovery.

## TEACHERS' EXAMINATION NEXT TUESDAY, APRIL 11

The regular State examination for teachers' certificates will be conducted in the office of the County Superintendent of schools on next Tuesday and Wednesday. This test is given for all grades of certificates and teachers who desire to take examination should be on hand ready for work at 9 a. m. Tuesday, April 11th.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION IN REGULAR SESSION

The County Board of Education was in regular session in its office in the court house last Monday, attending to the usual routine of business and hearing various petitions and requests from various sections of the county. Two petitions for bond elections were approved by the board and elections are expected to be held at no distant date.

A school building was ordered to be built in the old Carlyle district at the earliest possible date. The building will be one of the best in the county and will be built along strictly modern lines. Plans have been adopted for the building and the contractor is expected to begin the work at once.

The board decided to make a survey and inspection of the school property of the county for the purpose of determining the physical condition of school buildings and making an estimate of what will be needed during the coming year along the lines of repairs and furnishings. More has been done during the past year in the way of repairs and furnishings than has ever been done in any previous year. A large number of buildings have been completed, new roofs put on and several hundred patent desks have been installed. The Board of Education hopes to put every building in the county in first class shape during the coming months. There are only a small number of schools in the county not equipped with patent desks at this time, and it is thought there will be no difficulty in completing the program of placing in every school building in the county new comfortable patent desks.

Plans for county summer school for teachers were discussed and it is expected that arrangements will be made whereby every teacher in the county below the elementary grade will be able to attend summer school at a very nominal cost. Teachers above the elementary grades do not attend county summer schools, but state summer schools. The Board of Education does not think it necessary for any school in the county to be taught by a teacher holding a second grade certificate. Considering the demand in the way of qualifications on the part of teachers it is thought that the day has arrived when the children of the schools of McDowell county are entitled to be taught only by teachers of the best qualifications. With this in view the board will insist that teachers take advantage of the state and county summer schools, to the end that they may increase their efficiency by more training in the summer schools.

## STATE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION APRIL 11

Mr. D. W. Sims, chairman program committee, requests this paper to state that the opening session of the State Sunday School convention will be held at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, April 11, in the Second Presbyterian church, Charlotte. There will be two general sessions on Tuesday—afternoon and night.

The program committee is sending out this week twelve thousand programs of the convention to the pastors, Sunday school leaders and superintendents of the State.

The program is arranged for two general sessions also on the two following days. On the afternoons of April 12 and 13 there will be four simultaneous conferences for workers in the children's, young people's, adults' and administrative divisions. It is expected that these sectional conferences will be the most helpful and practical sessions of the convention.

One outstanding feature of the program for the opening day will be the supper-conference and get-together meeting for county and township Sunday school association officers. In the 53 organized counties in the State there are more than five hundred county Sunday school officers. A large number of these will be in attendance at the convention.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE COUNTY

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

#### DYSARTSVILLE

Dysartsville, April 4.—The news of Mrs. C. F. Kirksey's death, at the Grace hospital in Morganton, brought sorrow to her many friends and relatives throughout the county. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Pickens, of Morganton, Tuesday afternoon and interment was made at the Trinity cemetery. Mrs. Kirksey was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Landis. She has made her home in Morganton ever since her marriage, nearly fourteen years ago. Mrs. Kirksey was nearing her thirty-fifth birthday. She has been a member of the Methodist church for a number of years. She was always ready when help was needed. She will not only be missed by her friends and relatives but she will be missed in the church and Sunday school.

She is survived by her mother, Mrs. J. B. Landis and several brothers and sisters, Mrs. T. E. Satterwhite, Mrs. C. E. Cowan, John, Ben and Bratcher Landis of Dysartsville, Mrs. J. L. Laughridge, Mrs. J. L. Cowan, W. E. Landis of Marion, and Mrs. Robert Daves of Glen Alpine.

Mrs. Mattie Jaquins was in Marion Monday. A number of people from this place attended a singing at J. M. Walker's of Laurel Hill Saturday evening and reported some fine singing and a nice time.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Laughridge, Mrs. J. S. Cowan and daughter, Miss Ruth, of Marion were pleasant visitors here Sunday.

David and Cronje Laughridge and Zeb Daves of Marion spent Saturday night and Sunday with relatives here. John and Alfred Laughridge made a business trip to Bridgewater last week.

Miss Etta Walker and brothers, Arthur and Erastus, and Mr. Cronje and Joe Laughridge visited the Rutherford hospital Sunday.

W. H. Taylor, Duck Walker and John Daves made a business trip to Marion Monday.

J. P. Walker visited his wife at the Rutherford hospital last week.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Mangum were in Marion Monday.

J. P. Walker made a business trip to Marion Monday.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson, March 29th, a daughter, Robert Laughridge made a business trip to Marion this week.

Miss Alice Mangum of Marion spent the week-end with homefolks here.

Jake Walker of Ninety Six, S. C., spent the week-end here.

Mrs. Henry Mangum is on the sick list.

Mrs. Clyde Duvall has returned home after spending a while with her sister, Mrs. McKinley Hutchins, at Spindale.

Jim Spratt made a business trip to Marion Tuesday.

The boys here enjoyed a good game of basketball with the Marion boys Monday afternoon. The score was 30 to 24 in favor of Marion.

R. E. Roper moved to Marion this week.

#### OLD FORT

Old Fort, April 5.—Jack and Finley Fortune of Asheville were in Old Fort Sunday.

Miss Gell Branham was in Marion Friday.

A number of young people enjoyed a truck ride to Marion Tuesday night, where they attended the debate.

J. M. Kanipe returned from Glenwood, Saturday.

Mrs. Goswick of Winston-Salem spent the week-end with her daughter, Miss Alva Goswick.

The high school literary society gave a reception Friday afternoon in honor of the Old Fort debaters. A short musical program was rendered and a delightful punch and sandwich course was served by the domestic

science classes. Clarence Mauney was in Marion last Friday.

Mrs. K. C. Sawyer, who has been visiting her parents in Black Mountain, has returned home.

Roger Kanipe, who has been visiting relatives in Glenwood, returned Friday to Old Fort.

Miss K. Bailey and Miss F. Bruton were in Marion Monday afternoon.

Miss Mary Greenlee, County Welfare officer, was in Old Fort one day last week.

Our debaters leave Wednesday for Chapel Hill to participate in the final triangular debate. Those going are Misses Cassie Burgin, Sallie Epley, Estelle Lavender and Mr. Wm. Treverton. They will be chaperoned by Miss Ethel Miller.

Paul Dittmore of Ann Arbor arrived Monday to visit his cousin, Mrs. G. W. Sandlin.

J. W. Kennedy has recently sold his house and lot to C. A. Snyder. Mr. Snyder will soon remove his family to Old Fort.

Deputy Sheriff D. Y. Grant on March 31st destroyed one of the largest steam distillery outfits ever captured in the county. The plant was located near the Miller place in Broad River township. The following equipment was also taken with the still: Seventeen fermenters of beer, six bushels of meal, 750 pounds of sugar and five gallons of liquor. Mr. Grant also destroyed a small outfit near Buck Falls on April 3.

#### LAUREL HILL

Nebo, Rt. 1, April 3.—Word has been received here of the death of J. Webb Walker, which occurred on March 27th at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. S. Condrey, at Alexander, N. C. Mr. Walker had only recently moved from this community where he had spent the greater portion of his life and was well and favorably known by everybody. He was a Confederate veteran, and was nearing his 81st birthday, but notwithstanding his advanced age he had been very active up to a short time before his death. He is survived by three children—Mrs. H. B. Brackett of Forest City, Mrs. J. S. Condrey of Alexander, and J. D. Walker of this place, all of whom were present at the time of his death. He had for a number of years been an active member of the Baptist church and was always honest and upright in all his dealings. His passing will no doubt bring sadness to his many friends both here and elsewhere.

L. H. Whitener, J. M. Walker and Jesse Price were business visitors in Marion Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Condrey of Alexander spent the week-end with relatives here.

Mrs. J. B. Walker and Miss Nora McCurry were shopping in Marion Monday.

A singing at the home of J. M. Walker on last Saturday night was enjoyed by a large crowd.

#### CATAWBA VALLEY

Old Fort, Rt. 1, April 3.—Miss Margaret Goforth is visiting her sister, Mrs. T. A. Porter.

Margaret Porter has been quite ill for the past few days.

David and Azar Griffin of Ridgecrest spent the week-end with homefolks here.

Wm. Porter of Swannanoa visited his brother here yesterday.

John Porter of Kingsport, Tenn., is visiting his father, T. A. Porter.

Farmers are getting anxious to begin farm work.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Parker of Greenlee visited the former's parents here Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Parker of Marion visited their parents here last week.

The following young people went up Curtis creek last Sunday on a pleasure trip: Misses Annie Porter, Hattie Bradley, Maude Silver, Minnie Bradley; Messrs. Chas. Parker, Wm. Nichols, David Griffin and Arnold Moody.

(Continued on last page)

## HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE HERE TUESDAY NIGHT

### Old Fort and Glenwood Pitted Against Each-Other in Final Debating Contest.

The Old Fort High School and the Glenwood High School were pitted against each other last Tuesday night at the court house in the final debate, which is a part of the county commencement exercises. The Glenwood school represented the affirmative side of the question, which was "That the United States Enter the League of Nations." The Old Fort school debated the negative side. The representatives of the Glenwood school were Miss Mary Clay and Miss Lela Marlowe, who acquitted themselves in a most admirable manner. These young ladies showed a mastery of the subject and spoke with much ease and freedom. They were the recipient of much applause from the large crowd present.

The Old Fort school was represented by Misses Sallie Epley and Estelle Lavender. These young ladies were in fine trim for the occasion and were the object of much admiration on the part of the audience. Their speeches were well prepared and they handled their arguments, not as school girls, but more like veteran debaters.

The decision of the judges was sealed and will not be opened nor announced until Commencement Day, on Saturday. Much interest was in evidence as to whom would be given the decision. Both sides were highly complimented and those present enjoyed the debate very much.

Hon. D. E. Hudgins presided on this occasion and Miss Mary Greenlee acted as secretary.

## BOND ELECTION IN EAST MARION DISTRICT ORDERED

The people of the East Marion school district took a forward step when their representatives appeared before the Board of Education on last Monday and requested that an election be ordered in the East Marion school district on the proposition of a sixty-thousand dollar school building for the community. This is one of the largest districts in the county from the standpoint of number of children in the district, and for some time the people and authorities have felt that the school equipment was inadequate. Plans have been crystallizing in favor of a new building. The petition was approved by the Board of Education and the County Commissioners ordered the election to be held on May 6th. From reports coming from this district it appears that the election on the bond issue will be practically unanimous, as there seems to be no opposition whatever. The authorities of the mill are supporting the bond issue heartily and it is expected that the people of the community will show their appreciation of the stand taken by the officials of the great manufacturing plant in this community by standing shoulder to shoulder with them in this great move which means much for the people and for the children of the Marion mill section.

There are about three hundred children in the East Marion district. The attendance for the past few years has been very gratifying and the school has made great progress. With the erection of a strictly modern building the efficiency of the school will be greatly enhanced. The new building is to be a modern brick structure, with something like ten classrooms, auditorium, office and other necessary rooms. It will be furnished with the best equipment throughout.

Asheville was selected as the meeting place for the second annual convention of the North Carolina Chapter Disabled American veterans of the World War, at the closing session of the meeting in Charlotte Saturday.

The next annual convention of the North Carolina Press association will be held at Shelby July 26-28.