

MARION PROGRESS

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ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT OF NEBO HIGH SCHOOL

Closing Exercises Held Monday and Tuesday—Literary Address by E. F. Watson.

The commencement exercises of Nebo High School began on last Sunday with the baccalaureate sermon by Rev. C. M. Pickens, of Morganton. Rev. Pickens held the close attention of the packed auditorium, where he spoke in a practical way of the things most essential in life. He took his text from the first Psalm and his sermon was really a great one.

On Monday night the class day exercises were held. Three young ladies, Zulu Stone, Louie Alexander, Belle Somers, and two young men, Chaffie Sigmon and Isaiah Watson, constituted the graduating class. Their papers were most excellent and demonstrated clearly that the class is an unusually strong one.

The school auditorium was appropriately decorated with the class colors, white and green. The appointments were tastefully arranged and the new lights added much to the general attractiveness of the occasion.

On Tuesday morning the literary address was delivered by Hon. E. F. Watson, of Burnsville. Mr. D. E. Hudgins, chairman of the High school board, in a few but fitting words, presented the speaker of the occasion. The speaker took as his subject "The Pursuit of Happiness." He admonished the young graduates to follow only the things that brings happiness; he cautioned them to avoid all sorts of dangers and temptations. "In the middle of the stream," said the speaker, "is found the safest waters." His address was along practical lines and was impressively received by the large audience present.

Supt. N. F. Stepple talked briefly on the schools of the county, giving figures showing the number of children and the total cost of operation. He went into the expense of the Nebo school and urged upon the people the importance of co-operation and lending their support in making the school of greater service, not only to the immediate community but to the county at large.

On Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock the annual play was given to a large and appreciative audience. The young actors performed their parts admirably and were the recipients of much applause throughout the entire program.

Nebo has had one of its most successful years. Much interest has been taken by the citizens of the community and the work that has been accomplished by students and teachers has been of a very high order.

Mr. H. M. Roland has been the efficient principal and has rendered entire satisfaction, not only to the authorities of the school, but to the community at large. Assisting and co-operating with Mr. Roland were the following teachers: Miss Mamie Stacy and Mrs. Bynum Finley in the high school department; Misses Anna Conley, Lottie Wilson, Thessa Jimeson, Nelle McCurry and Louise Brown in the grammar grades and primary department.

The Nebo school has now met the requirements to become fully accredited. All necessary equipment, scientific and literary, has been installed. The number of teachers that are required has been employed and hereafter Nebo will be ranked among the best schools of the State. This is the objective toward which the community and county have been working for some time. The news that Nebo is now recognized as a standard high school will be favorably received by the many students and friends of the institution.

EAST MARION SCHOOL CLOSES.

The closing exercises of East Marion school on April 28th was well attended. Everyone enjoyed the well prepared and varied program which was given by the upper grades.

A number deserving special men-

tion was Bubble Land, a very pretty and clever exercise. The flag party was a novel patriotic number. Little Miss Bessie Brooks read exceedingly well and in the play Billie Bowman was indeed very clever as the old Dutchman.

At the close of the program Miss Mary Greenlee delivered 18 prizes for perfect attendance. She besought the parents to see that twice as many children get prizes for perfect attendance next year, and to give their children every opportunity possible.

In many ways this has been the most successful year in the history of East Marion school. Parents have co-operated with the teachers as never before. A wide-awake parent-teacher association has been of great help to the school. The capable, efficient principal, Miss Maggie Taylor, has been assisted by a splendid corps of teachers, Misses Hattie Taylor, Hazel Richardson, Sue Conley, Olivia Patton and Mrs. Arthur McCall.

GLENWOOD SCHOOL CLOSES.

Because of the fact that the final exercises were so near the county commencement occasion, at which time the school participated in all contests, and that each month throughout the year some feature of entertainment was offered to the public, Glenwood did not attempt to stage an elaborate commencement. Despite the inclement weather the programs of both Thursday evening and Friday morning were attended by large crowds.

On Thursday evening the high school students presented most successfully the play, Farm Folks. The acting was of a high order and met with enthusiastic reception as shown by the large amount of applause by the audience.

Preceding the graduating exercises Friday morning Supt. N. F. Stepple made a short but impressive talk on perfect attendance—what it means and what it costs. At the close of his talk 20 per cent of the average attendance of children for the year stood in front of the stage in a line and were awarded prizes given by the County Board of Education.

The graduating class was small—only two young ladies, Misses Ora Bright and Lela Marlowe. Miss Marlowe read a splendid essay "Be Thyself." The valedictory was delivered by Miss Bright. Following the valedictory Miss Emmabelle McFall rendered a very beautiful solo, which was much in keeping with the program, and added greatly to the effectiveness of it. The success of the occasion depended in no small way upon the short but fitting speech of Rev. J. M. Brown, who presented the diplomas.

This year has been the most successful in the history of the school. Miss Celestia L. Penny, the efficient principal, is a woman of unusual educational qualifications and ability as a leader. She has been ably assisted by a splendid corps of teachers.

CLINCHCROSS.

On last Thursday afternoon the folks of Clinchcross community enjoyed a rare treat. When the curtains were parted the audience was welcomed by a bright, snappy greeting song which was the beginning of a program of miscellaneous nature. The entire program was well rendered, but the play deserves special mention. Though every member of the cast rendered his part well, Daniel Hitchcock as Uncle Pete, Ray Sorrels as Col. Wayne, and Annie Lee Helmes as Mrs. Wayne did especially well. This has been undoubtedly the most successful year in the history of Clinchcross school. This success is due to the untiring efforts and faithful work of the teachers, Misses Alda English and Bessie Tate. Patrons and children desire that these teachers return, but their good works are known and they are being called to larger fields of usefulness.

Don't miss THE KID.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE COUNTY

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

OLD FORT

Old Fort, May 2.—The town and community was saddened Monday morning early when it was announced that Mrs. A. A. Sawyer had died. Mrs. Sawyer was 52 years old at her death. She was born and reared in this community. She was a faithful wife, a devoted mother and a good neighbor. She united with the Methodist church at the age of fifteen and remained a faithful member to the end. Besides her husband she is survived by two daughters and three sons: Mrs. John Cannon, Miss Vivian, Athel, Kenneth and Carroll. She was laid to rest in the Old Fort cemetery. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. R. F. Mock of Bryson City.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Miller entertained a few friends Monday evening in honor of Misses Jean and Mary Richards. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Treverton, Mr. and Mrs. George Marshall, and Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Strickland. After several interesting games and contests, delicious ice cream and cake were served. Those present voted Mrs. Miller a most charming hostess.

Mr. Caplan is moving into his new drug store recently completed by Caplan and Johnson. This building will do credit to a much larger town than Old Fort.

Misses Jean and Mary Richards of Carlyle, Pa., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Treverton. The Misses Richards are just returning from a two months stay in Miami, Fla.

Mr. and Mrs. Westerman of this place have returned to their home after spending the winter in Florida.

Miss Fannie Bruton, teacher in the Old Fort school, has returned to her home at Mt. Gilead.

Miss Murray, music teacher of Old Fort High school, escorted the following to Montreat one day last week to attend the music recital: Misses Olive Whitmire, Edith LeFevre, Carlyn McIntosh and Robert Hughes.

Miss Alva Goswick, 6th grade teacher, has returned to her home in Winston-Salem.

C. A. Snyder made a business trip to Morganton recently.

A camping trip to Mt. Mitchell is being planned for the week-end by a group of young people from Old Fort and Marion. Those included in the plans are as follows: Misses Kathryn Bailey, Mary Burgin, Mattie Tate, Ruth Greenlee, Adeline Wilkerson, Mrs. Winfield Keeter; Messrs. John Artz, Eugene Keeter, Eugene Buckley, Winfield Keeter and Oscar Shelton.

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan have returned from their wedding trip and are making their home at the Sandlin House.

BETHLEHEM

Old Fort, May 1.—Mrs. James Silvers is ill with influenza.

Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Souther of Catawba spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hogan.

Willard Kelley of Catawba and Miss Pearl Turner and father spent Sunday in Marion.

Little Mamie Parker of Marion is visiting her sister, Mrs. Mills.

Miss Irene Hogan and Miss Marie Jackson of Crooked Creek spent Sunday in Marion.

Frank Turner's baby has been very sick for several days.

Mrs. Hattie Hogan was in Old Fort one day last week shopping.

Mrs. John Reel was in Old Fort the latter part of the week.

Riley Staton, who has been on the sick list for some time, is improving slowly.

Mrs. Robert Hoover and children have been visiting her father, Mr. Staton.

(Continued on last page)

REV. J. E. MAHAFFEY TO HOLD REVIVAL AT MARION MILLS

Rev. J. E. Mahaffey, a well known pastor-evangelist of the Upper South Carolina Conference, has been engaged to hold a series of revival services at the Marion Mills Methodist church. These services are to begin on the evening of May 8th, and will likely continue about two weeks.

Mr. Mahaffey has had a very successful career as a pastor-evangelist, and he is so much in demand among his brethren in his own conference that it is not often that he can be secured to go elsewhere, but the pastor of the Marion Mills church found that he had an open date of about two weeks in the early part of May and promptly secured his services for his church.

Outside of his native state Mr. Mahaffey is better known as an author than an evangelist, as he has written quite a number of books, of a religious nature, that have had a very wide circulation. One of these books has been published in a 100,000 edition, and it has gone all over America and even to foreign lands.

He is naturally argumentative in his style of preaching and this gift has been, perhaps unconsciously, developed through the controversial nature of much of his work. In his treatment of a subject he leaves the impression on his audiences that he is an authority that it would be useless to contradict, and yet he does this in such an agreeable spirit that admiration and respect, instead of opposition, characterizes his hearers. The whole community is fortunate in having an opportunity of hearing this man. A cordial invitation is extended to everybody to attend the services.

A. B. GILKEY, AGED CITIZEN, PASSES

Mr. A. B. Gilkey, familiarly known as "Uncle Gus" died at his home Monday morning, in his 92nd year. His death, notwithstanding his advanced age, was a distinct shock to his many friends and relatives throughout this section. He was active almost to the last, having been on the streets of Marion last Friday.

Mr. Gilkey was probably one of the best known citizens of McDowell county. He was active in church and known as a good man and public spirited citizen. He was a Confederate veteran and saw active service in the war between the States. He was a member of the Methodist church and took much interest in the upbuilding and welfare of not only his own church, but his home and community.

The funeral was held from the Methodist church Wednesday morning and was largely attended. Rev. Hips, pastor of the deceased, conducted the funeral services. Interment was made at the Oak Grove cemetery.

Mr. Gilkey is survived by a wife and three sons. A. L. Gilkey, of the First National Bank, E. D. Gilkey, a druggist of Asheville and J. C. Gilkey, assistant state bank examiner; and one daughter, Mrs. L. E. Wooten, of New York City.

The sympathy of the entire community is extended to the sorrowing relatives in their hour of great bereavement.

VAUDEVILLE ACT COMING TO OASIS THEATRE

The Cleveland Star of Shelby carries as a news item in its last issue, the following:

"The Berven & Norman company which is holding forth at the Princess Theatre this week with a special vaudeville attraction is proving one of the very best show companies ever in Shelby, and judging from the liberal patronage of the Shelby people it is making a decided hit. It's a clean wholesome show, full of the spice of variety and funny jokes. The musical numbers are new and catchy."

This musical vaudeville sketch will be at Oasis Theatre on the evening of Friday, May 5th.

Don't miss THE KID.

McDOWELL HIGHWAY COMMISSION MEETS

Makes Order for Construction of Road in North Cove and Dysartville Townships.

At the regular meeting of the County Highway Commission on last Monday the road in upper North Cove township connecting with Avery county was ordered built. It will become a part of the State highway system. The construction of this important link of road will cost something like \$80,000.00; \$32,000 of which will be paid by the State. The completion of this link of road will give direct connection with Avery county and will make it possible for the people of upper North Cove and the mountain section to reach Marion and Avery county over a good road. A large delegation of citizens was present and urged forcefully upon the Road Commissioners the importance of building this stretch of road.

An order for survey of the road from Providence to Crooked Creek highway was made. This road will make it possible, when built, for the people who live between the Montfords Cove road and the Crooked Creek road, a distance of about nine miles, to reach Marion on a good road. At present this road is in very bad condition and for some time there has been an urgent demand for better road for this section. The completion of the road will mean much for this section which is thickly populated.

An order was made for the construction of a link of road from Dysartville to the Rutherford county line. This will complete the road from Marion to Rutherford, affording an excellent type of road for the travel between McDowell and Rutherford counties. The Dysartville road was completed some time ago but there has been a strong sentiment for this connecting link of about four miles between McDowell and Rutherford counties. The survey was made some time ago and the contract for the construction of the road will be let on the 15th inst.

FIDDLERS AND BANJO PICKERS CONVENTION

At an enthusiastic meeting of the Knights of Pythias last week it was decided to hold their musical convention in Marion on the afternoon and evening of May 20th. All fiddlers, bajo pickers, mandolin and guitar players, in fact all musicians take notice that cash and valuable prizes will be offered for the best talent exhibited. All fiddlers or other musicians who expect to enter the contest will notify R. F. Barnes of Marion, N. C., at once to enter their names on the list as one of the contestants.

The general public is invited and a big time is promised all who attend. Such old time selections as "Cindy Let Your Bangs Hang Down," "Sourwood Mountain," "Old Joe Clark," "Little Brown Jug," "My Darling Nellie Gray" and many others that promise just as much ginger and sentiment will feature the programs.

ASHFORD

The closing exercises of the Ashford school took place on Friday night, April 28th. The program consisted of songs, drills, dialogues, etc., and was enjoyed by a large and appreciative audience. One who had not visited the school until that occasion could see the patient and faithful work of the teachers plainly reflected by the way the little folks rendered their parts. Miss Edith Lonon has been the efficient principal for the past year. She has been ably assisted by Miss Nannie Nichols. Ashford is one of the largest two-teacher schools in the county and is in a community where there is much civic pride. By reason of this the teachers have been able to greatly improve the physical equipment of the school by adding such things as library, athletic equipment, maps and pictures.

You'll be sorry if you don't see THE KID.