

## WPA Project For New Jail Here Given Approval

### Work On \$46,000 Addition To Court House To Begin Within Thirty Days.

McDowell county's application for a \$50,000 WPA project for making an addition to the county court house for a new jail has been approved in Washington, according to information received here yesterday by I. L. Caplan, chairman of the McDowell board of commissioners.

Of the estimated \$50,000 cost of the addition to the courthouse approximately \$20,000 will be furnished by McDowell county. The amount of \$26,269 has been allotted for the project by the Federal government. Part of the cost the county is called upon to pay will be furnished in the form of labor and materials.

Work on the project is expected to begin within the next 30 days. According to estimates, from 60 to 75 men will be employed on the project and approximately eight months will be required to complete the work.

Plans for the project call for a 3-story structure that will accommodate twice the number of prisoners and enable officers to segregate prisoners. The work will also include the installation of a heating system, plumbing, and electrical facilities.

News of the approval of the project by the President was released Tuesday from the office of Representative Zebulon Weaver.

### PROPST TALKS ON 1940 CONSERVATION PROGRAM

J. L. Propst, a representative of the Agricultural Adjustment administration, met with committeemen and supervisors of McDowell county in the courthouse yesterday and discussed with them the soil conservation program for 1940.

Every farmer intending to take part in the 1940 conservation program must sign to that effect in the County Agent's office before April 15, he pointed out. In addition farmers will be required to tell how they intend to comply, he said.

Methods were pointed out by which committeemen and supervisors could aid farmers in compliance work.

### P.T.A. GROUP MEETING MONDAY AFTERNOON

The Parent-Teacher Association will meet Monday afternoon, Feb. 5, at 3:30 in the high school auditorium. Mrs. Bruce Hildebrand, program chairman, announces the subject for discussion is "How Much Homework?"

At 3:00 o'clock a meeting of the study group will be held in Room 5-B in the high school building. The question, "Is Your Child Succeeding at School?" will be discussed by Mrs. J. F. Jonas. This discussion will be based on an article from the Parents Magazine showing that good grades are not the only measurer of success in school. Anyone interested is invited to attend the meetings.

### SUPERIOR COURT TO CONVENE HERE FEB. 12

The February term of McDowell County Superior court will convene here on Monday, February 12. Judge Frank Armstrong will preside over the term which is scheduled for two weeks. Sixteen cases are listed on the calendar for trial.

### MOORESBORO DOWNED BY PLEASANT GARDENS

Pleasant Gardens high whipped the Moorsboro cagers in both ends of a twin attraction Friday night taking the girls' game 33-19, and the boys' scrap, 42-31.

### JOINS PROGRESS STAFF

Preston Sparrow, of Chapel Hill, has accepted a position as news reporter with The Progress. Mr. Sparrow was formerly connected with The Graphic, a weekly newspaper in Nashville, N. C.

Adult education is to be introduced into Jamaica.

### OPENING OF COUNTY SCHOOLS POSTPONED

McDowell county schools, which have been closed since January 23, will not open until Monday, February 5, according to an announcement released here this week by N. F. Steppe, County Superintendent of schools. Openings were postponed after school committeemen, principals, and the superintendent had agreed that weather conditions made traveling unsafe for children.

With the exception of seven days, county schools have been closed since the beginning of the Christmas holidays. Openings were deferred from January 1 to January 15 because of flu cases that swept over most of the county. Bad weather, with resulting icy roads, led to the closing of the schools on January 23.

### FRANCIS MARION CLUB TO HOLD TOURNAMENT

The Francis Marion club will sponsor a basketball tournament to be held in the Community building February 22-24, it was decided at the semi-monthly meeting of the organization last Thursday.

Truman Westmoreland and Howard Holland were appointed to arrange the tournament. According to Mr. Holland, 12 teams have been invited to participate in the contest but no answers have as yet been received. Trophies will be awarded to the winning team, the consolation winner, and to individual players who distinguish themselves in the tournament. Three or four games are planned for each night.

The club considered plans for the celebration of its fifth anniversary. The birthday is to be celebrated during the early part of March.

## Grady Is Sixth To Enter Race For Governor

### State-Wide Liquor Vote One Of Main Platform Planks. For Sales Tax Repeal.

Raleigh, Jan. 29.—Paul D. Grady of Kenly, advocating a state-wide referendum on liquor and repeal of the 3 per cent sales tax, today announced his candidacy for Governor of North Carolina.

Grady was the sixth Democrat to enter the race, topping the previous record number of entries by two. At least one other person—Willis Smith of Raleigh—is expected to seek the nomination, which is tantamount to election.

Other candidates are Thomas E. Cooper of Wilmington, who announced yesterday, and J. M. Broughton of Raleigh, L. Lee Graveley of Rocky Mount, W. P. Horton of Pittsboro and A. J. Maxwell of Raleigh.

Grady's stand on liquor was similar to that of dry leaders, expressed in the last two sessions of the General Assembly. The prohibitionists, opponents of the present county option system, have asserted that a state-wide referendum would result in an overwhelming majority against liquor.

If elected Governor, Grady said, he would recommend the referendum at "the earliest possible date."

"Should the people decide in favor of liquor control, I pledge myself . . . to see that proper and real control is carried out," Grady said. "Should the people declare against liquor, I pledge myself to use every ounce of my energy and the prestige and force of the office of governor to see that the will of the people is obeyed."

His liquor plank was the exact opposite of that advanced yesterday by Cooper, who said he was in favor of "each county running its own affairs." Other candidates have not discussed the liquor issue.

Grady said he would discuss during his campaign, a plan by which sales tax could be repealed "without hindrance or disruption to any necessary governmental function." He came out flatly against the diversion of highway funds, and advocated a consolidation of state departments and commissions.

## Robt. L. James Enters Race For State Senator

### Marion Man Announces He Will Seek Democratic Nomination in This District.

R. L. (Bob) James, prominent hosiery mill man of Marion, announced this week that he would seek the Democratic nomination for this district to the State Senate in the May primary.

Mr. James is a successful business man and for years has taken an active part in public and political affairs. He has been engaged in hosiery mill business in Marion for the past 25 years. He was associated with his uncle, C. F. James, until 1934, when he entered business for himself. His plant is now known as the R. L. James and Sons Hosiery Mill. Since going into the hosiery business Mr. James stated he has operated his mill every day and night with the exception of Sundays.

He is a Mason, member of the Junior Order of American Mechanics, and is affiliated with the First Methodist church of Marion. He now serves as a member of the Board of Aldermen of Marion, having been elected last May.

One senator to represent the 27th senatorial district will be nominated from McDowell county in the primary. Other counties in the district are: Rutherford, Cleveland, Henderson, and Polk. The other senator from the 27th district will be elected from either Polk or Rutherford counties. McDowell county is allowed a senator every six years.

Mr. James will be opposed in the primary by Ashby Robinson, of Old Fort, who has served as representative in the house from this county since 1938. Robinson announced his candidacy for the senate several weeks ago.

### COLDEST WEATHER WITHIN MEMORY RECORDED HERE

Winter visited Marion during the past week with the coldest weather that has been experienced in this section in many years, according to local observers.

At no time during the week did the thermometer go above 35 degrees and a sub-zero low of minus five degrees was recorded by C. A. Nichols of the Marion Fire Department last Friday.

According to Mr. Nichols, high and low readings for the past week ran as follows:

	High	Low
Wednesday — 24	30	25
Thursday — 25	32	10
Friday — 26	21	-5
Saturday — 27	21	3
Sunday — 28	30	3
Monday — 29	35	5
Tuesday — 30	30	20

The continued cold has brought hardships on many residents of Marion. Water pipes have been frozen in many homes and many homeowners have found themselves caught with insufficient fuel to furnish heat.

Most county roads are covered with snow and ice, making travel difficult and extremely hazardous.

"It's the coldest spell since '17 and '18," said J. P. Ray, for many years a resident of Marion. Mr. Ray recalled an experience during a similar cold spell back in 1898 when, on a trip up Buck Creek, he drove across 22 frozen streams without so much as wetting the wagon wheels.

### GOAL SET FOR POLIO FUND MAY BE EXCEEDED

Receipts of funds indicate that the goal of \$100, set for Marion in the drive for money to aid victims of infantile paralysis, will be reached and collections may exceed \$125, said S. J. Westmoreland, chairman of the local committee soliciting funds, yesterday.

A benefit show staged at the Marion Theatre was well attended and many persons have responded to the "March of Dimes" campaign.

The solicitation of funds is still proceeding and Chairman Westmoreland urges that everyone contribute before the final report is made.

## Henry Re-Elected President Of Chamber Body

### Eckerd Re-elected Vice-President; Oliver Cross Resigns As Secretary.

J. D. Henry was yesterday re-elected as president of the Marion Chamber of Commerce at a meeting of the board of directors in the Town Hall. Also continuing in office was V. T. Eckerd, who was elected to succeed himself as first vice president.

Clarence Rabb was elected section vice-president, succeeding Dean Tainter, and J. E. Neal was chosen to take the place of Clarence Rabb as treasurer of the organization.

Mr. Hugh Beam, having been elected national councillor of the Chamber last December was chosen to continue in that office.

The resignation of Oliver Cross, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, was tendered, to be effective February 15.

The directors took no action on a referendum dealing with the restriction of competition and voted to defer action on a referendum pertaining to the National Labor Relations act until the next regular meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Chamber is scheduled for Thursday night at eight o'clock in the Community building. The guest speaker on that occasion will be J. E. Coad, secretary of the Hickory Chamber of Commerce, who, it is expected, will discuss plans and features of the Western Carolinas Mayors' tour to Florida on February 12-24.

### MR. ROBINSON FIGHTING PROPOSED ROAD CHANGE

Mr. Ashby Robinson, representative from McDowell county in the last session of the legislature, calls the attention of the people of McDowell county to the fact that the question of re-routing Highway No. 64 between Old Fort and Bat Cave is before the State Highway and Public Works Commission. Mr. Robinson has been keeping in touch with the situation and feels that it would be a great loss to McDowell county should Highway 64 be changed as proposed.

The proposed change would route this highway from Morganton by way of Rutherfordton to Bat Cave. This means that a large amount of tourist traffic which now travels through McDowell county by way of Old Fort and thence to Bat Cave, would be lost. Mr. Robinson urges the people of McDowell county who are interested in keeping the highway No. 64 as at present routed, to register their opposition at once to the Highway Commission.

He is of the opinion that it would be a wise move to have a representative delegation of the people from McDowell county to appear before the Highway Commission on the date of hearing which is scheduled for 3 o'clock in the afternoon of February 29th.

The Progress is pleased to publish the letter as written by Charles Ross, Counsel for the Highway Commission, to Representative Robinson. The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. Robinson: "You will recall that during the last session of the General Assembly you were interested in the question of whether U. S. 64, now routed through Old Fort to Bat Cave, might not later be changed to go from Morganton by way of Rutherfordton to Bat Cave, and that I promised you that if at any time this matter became a live issue that I would notify you so that if you cared to be heard, you could have an opportunity.

"I wish to inform you that the recommendation for the rerouting of Route 64 as indicated is now pending before the Commission and will be called up for discussion at three o'clock in the afternoon on February 29. If you are still interested in this matter and desire to be heard, I am sure the Commission would be glad to hear you at that time.

"Of course, the proposed change does not involve the abandonment of that section of road from Old Fort to Bat Cave as a State route, but would simply mean that the U. S. numbering be taken off and that a State number be given it instead."

It took 40 years to the day to build the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah.

### SCHOOLS DISCUSSED BY BEAM BEFORE ROTARY

Hugh F. Beam addressed the members of the Marion Rotary club at its regular meeting at noon Friday on the subject of the history and development of schools.

Plans were made at the meeting for the ladies night. Members of the club were 100 per cent in attendance.

Mr. Beam pointed out the poor conditions of schools before they were taken over by the state in 1931. The state guarantee of finances to schools has led to better schools and the trend is now back to the counties, allowing them to vote additional funds to those supplied by the state.

The average yearly cost of education per child in Marion is now \$27.56 as compared to a state average of \$31.00, he said. Education should advance, he concluded, for Democracy depends largely on the boys and girls now enrolled in the schools.

### MARION HIGH MEETS MORGANTON FRIDAY

The Marion high school basketball team will meet the Morganton high school in the Community building Friday night for the first home game for the local boys in over a week. Because of bad weather three games scheduled for last week and this week have been postponed. These games, with Shelby, Lenoir and Hickory, will be played at a later date.

Coach Art Ditt's boys have chalked up four wins to no losses so far this season. They have wins over Forest City, Cliffside, N. C. School for Deaf, and Lenoir. The Marion high girls' team has lost four straight.

## Temperatures Sink To Record Lows In State

### Numerous Towns Report Readings Below Zero; Coldest Spell Of Winter.

The coldest spell of the winter, which swept snow and sleet before it, introduced record low temperatures in some North Carolina towns Friday, causing additional suffering.

Relief agencies gave out clothing, plumbers worked day and night, and road forces kept a continuous watch for slippery spots. A Rutherford county youth died after his car turned over. A Catawba county man was frozen to death.

In the Piedmont section Greensboro had a reading of -7, Salisbury -3, and Charlotte airport -3, Charlotte proper 6. In the mountains, Franklin saw the mercury drop to -13 and Mt. Mitchell to -16. Asheville reported 3 above and for the first time since 1918 the French Broad river was frozen over at Brevard.

Raleigh had its coldest night in 16 years Friday night with a low of 7 above. Durham was one above.

On the coast Wilmington had a reading of 14 above and Cape Hatteras 19.

Other North Carolina readings: Rocky Mount 5, Fayetteville 8, Tryon 3, Canton 1, Hendersonville 1 1/2, Burnsville -5 (unofficial), Henderson 1, Brevard -10, Concord 6, Statesville 2, and Weldon 2.

High Point, with 2 above, claimed its lowest reading in years.

Unofficial but reliable thermometers in Anson county dropped to around zero, lowest there since the year 1918. The Great Pee Dee river was frozen over until late in the forenoon.

At Boone, in northwestern North Carolina, an unofficial reading of 3 below zero was recorded at 7:30 a. m. Saturday.

Newland, in Avery county, reported the official reading at 7 a. m. Saturday to be 12 below zero. An official reading at Altamont, also in Avery county, gave the lowest as 2 below zero early Saturday morning and on Friday morning the reading was 12 below.

Spruce Pine in Mitchell county reported an unofficial reading of 8 below zero at 7 a. m. Saturday.

## Tourist Trade Worth Millions To This Section

### J. C. Baskerville Tells Kiwanis Club 531 Foreign Cars Pass Here Daily.

It is possible for the merchants and businessmen of Marion to realize additional profits of approximately \$2,907,225 a year by catering to the tourist trade that is brought into this section by the National Scenic highway," members of the Kiwanis club were told Tuesday night by J. C. Baskerville of the Division of State Advertising of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development.

An average of 531 foreign cars a day pass through Marion, he said. Counting three persons per car, he estimated the total number of out of state persons to pass through Marion in a year to be 581,445. "You must realize that each of these is a prospective customer and he will stop here if the town has something attractive to offer," said Baskerville. "There is a great need for clean tourist camps and hotel facilities; but above all, he said, Marion residents should extend every courtesy to travelers for the best advertisement the town can have is to have people speak favorably of it.

"Figures show that within the space of three years, the travel and tourist business has become one of the state's biggest businesses or 'crops,' since it now ranks next to the tobacco crop in value. The 1939 tobacco crop, including all types, had an estimated cash value of \$121,010,000," he said. "It amounts to three times the value of the state's lint cotton crop, which last year amounted to about \$35,000,000. These figures should indicate that we must not regard the travel business lightly in North Carolina and that the tourist 'crop' is not to be sneezed at."

"Another advantage which the tourist 'crop' has for us here in North Carolina, is that it requires no plowing, no fertilizer, no seeding by the communities which harvest it, but like any other crop, it does require careful cultivating and tending if we are going to reap a good harvest from it year after year. By that I mean there must be state and local advertising if the crop is going to grow from year to year."

"The United States Department of Commerce and the United States Travel Service have made studies over a period of years showing that of the travel dollar, 25 per cent is spent in buying at retail; 21 per cent for food in restaurants, cafes; 20 per cent for hotel accommodations; 20 per cent for transportation, chiefly gas and oil; eight per cent for amusements and six per cent for soft drinks, ice cream and candy," he said.

"Applying this same breakdown to the \$100,000,000 spent by tourists in North Carolina each year, \$25,000,000 is spent with the merchants, \$21,000,000 with the cafes and restaurants, \$20,000,000 with the hotels, tourist camps and tourist homes; \$20,000,000 with the filling stations, garages, bus lines and railroads, but the greater portion for gasoline and oil; \$8,000,000 for amusements, chiefly movies, and \$6,000,000 for soft drinks, ice cream, candy and other confections."

"You in Marion are in a position to tap this stream of money," he concluded. "The state advertising brings many of them into this section. It is up to you to make them stop in Marion."

Lieutenant-Governor of Kiwanis for the Carolinas, Horace Eason, of Shelby, addressed the club on the growth and aims of the organization, pointing out that Kiwanis is now celebrating its 25th birthday.

Kiwanis is building better citizens through its efforts of giving, promoting, encouraging, developing, providing, and cooperating, he said. It aids in the proper development of boys and girls, brings about better relations between town and country people, and helps to promote international good will, he concluded.

Chile shipped more products to the United States last year than to any other country.