

C. of C. Urged To Capitalize On Opportunities

Coad Points To W. N. C. Possibilities; Cross Reviews Activities Of Local Chamber.

Declaring Western North Carolina to be the "pay dirt of the eastern slope to the sea," J. E. Coad, secretary of the Hickory Chamber of Commerce, told members of the local Chamber last Thursday that this fact was a challenge to them to make the most of their opportunities. Mr. Coad spoke to members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce at a meeting in the Community building.

The mayors' tour to Florida has been planned to advertise Western North Carolina to 2,000,000 who will travel north this summer, he said, and more than 30 mayors have now been lined up to go.

McDowell's representatives on the tour will be Zeno Martin, mayor of Marion, and John V. Robinson, mayor of Old Fort.

Achievements of the local Chamber of Commerce were outlined by Secretary Oliver Cross. The Chamber now consists of 204 members, representing 126 businesses, he said.

Approximately 70 letters, inquiring about Marion as a place to spend a vacation or make a home, have been answered, continued Cross. Correspondence has been conducted with three industrial organizations, considering the establishing of plants in or near Marion and four rental concerns which are considering the setting up of places of business here.

The Chamber has been instrumental in securing a branch office of the North Carolina Automobile Association in Marion, making it possible for automobile owners to obtain licenses and transfers of titles without going out of town, said Cross. The Chamber has on file rooms and apartments available for persons seeking accommodations. Information has been furnished to a group interested in establishing a school near Marion and to another considering the establishment of a boys' camp in McDowell. Some 75 full credit reports have been compiled and credit information on approximately 1,000 persons has been secured.

Lake Tahoma property has been advertised and some 60 persons have expressed interest in purchasing lots there. Approximately 500 copies of price lists have been handled for the Chamber of Commerce, concluded Cross.

Mr. Coad declared Western North Carolina to be just a step or two from an "empire of industry." Marion, located in a part of the United States that offers the world's greatest opportunities should take advantage of the fact, he said. He pointed to the Community building as a product of civic pride, a payment in part for the debt every citizen owes his town, state, and country.

Mayor Zeno Martin introduced the speaker to the Chamber. The treasurer's report of the Chamber of Commerce was presented by Clarence Rabb.

OLD FORT BUILDING & LOAN CLOSSES ACCOUNTS

Liquidation of the Old Fort Building and Loan Association has been completed with payments of 100 cents on the dollar to stockholders, it was announced here last week by W. W. LeFevre, formerly president of the organization.

Failure of the Association was brought about by several factors; including the closing of the Old Fort bank, the loss of a tannery by fire, and general unemployment, said LeFevre. At the time of its failure the association had approximately \$125,000 outstanding.

Liquidation was begun in 1934 and after paying all stockholders the association still has several houses and lots to its credit, said LeFevre.

Officers of the Old Fort organization were W. W. LeFevre, president, and H. R. Early, secretary. Directors were Wallace J. Winborne, F. M. Bradley, W. C. Lavender, D. M. McIntosh, H. M. Hensley, and S. L. Noblitt.

ROAD WORK IS BEGUN IN McDOWELL BY WPA ON \$92,880.00 PROJECT

A \$92,880 WPA project for the construction and improvement of farm-to-market roads in McDowell county was begun Saturday, according to an announcement of the local WPA office.

The work will consist of regrading, widening, and construction of bridges, placing of pipe, and surfacing with crushed stone and creek gravel. State owned roads not in the federal aid system will be included in the project, which will be county-wide.

It is expected that approximately 350 men will be employed for the work and the project will be carried on for six months. All labor will be furnished by WPA.

Notice of the approval of the project was given last week by C. C. McGinnis, state WPA administrator of Raleigh.

Seventy per cent, or \$66,544, of the cost of the project will be borne by the Federal government. The other 30 per cent, or \$26,336, will be paid by the state.

FEBRUARY CHECKS FOR \$4,199 GIVEN BY WELFARE BOARD

Checks totaling \$4,194 have been given out by the McDowell Board of Public Welfare for the month of February, according to information received from Mrs. G. W. Kirkpatrick, superintendent of Public Welfare, this week.

The sum of \$3,138 has been distributed among 317 persons as old-age assistance payments. Twelve blind persons have received checks totaling \$169 and payments for aid to dependent children have been given out in the sum of \$892, with 104 children and 52 families being represented in the latter payments.

These payments are provided by Federal, State and county governments with the national government contributing half and the state and county one-fourth each.

Recipients of these payments are persons who receive no aid from the agencies such as the NYA, WPA, CCC, or who receive no aid from the county poor fund.

CIVIL TERM OF SUPERIOR COURT STARTS MONDAY

The February civil term of McDowell county superior court will convene here next Monday with Judge Frank Armstrong presiding. The calendar contains sixteen cases, as follows:

Monday, February 12
W. G. Bates vs. Henry Greene; B. S. McKinney vs. E. J. Randolph and J. C. Rabb; and Rice Furniture Co. vs. Clyde Fisher.

Tuesday, February 13
Robert L. Simmons vs. W. L. Richards, et al; Lester Fair vs. W. L. Richards, et al; and M. L. Ledford vs. W. A. Brown.

Wednesday, February 14
P. M. Proctor vs. W. C. Comer; Beulah Gettys vs. Town of Marion; and D. H. Pender vs. John Hall.

Thursday, February 15
Dave Odom vs. Bosth Bakery; D. W. Adams vs. Federal Mortgage Co. and W. A. Plemmons vs. Laura Jaynes, et al.

Friday, February 16
Mrs. J. F. Gilleland vs. T. M. Gilleland et al; M. D. Ledbetter vs. Hickory Harness & Leather Co.; and In Re: J. F. Gilleland Will Caveat.

Monday, February 19
Fred Elliott vs. Sam Curtis.

FIRE DESTROYS CAR AND GARAGE OF L. D. GREENE

Fire of unknown origin completely destroyed the car of L. D. Greene, Marion jeweler, last Friday night and practically demolished his garage.

According to Mr. Greene, the fire was first noticed between 12:30 and 1:00 o'clock Friday night after both car and garage were blazing. Knowledge of the blaze was learned too late to save either the car or the garage. It was thought that the possible origin of the fire was a short circuit in the wiring of the car.

The automobile was a 1933 Terraplane. Neither the car nor the garage were covered by insurance. Damages were estimated at around \$400.

P-T.A. Discusses Homework For School Children

Parents And Teachers Present Views; Beam Congratulates Society On Work.

In celebration of the 43rd anniversary of the national organization, the Parent-Teachers Association of the Marion High School conducted a meeting in the school auditorium Monday on the theme, "How Much Homework." Taking part in the discussion were Mrs. J. H. Beaman, who presented the viewpoint of the parents, and Mrs. M. G. Allmand, who spoke for the teachers.

Mr. Hugh Beam, superintendent of the Marion city schools, congratulated the P.T.A. on its various undertakings and the success of its work.

Mrs. Beaman, speaking on the parents' viewpoint of homework for school children, stated that the time has past when a teacher's ability is measured by the amount of homework she requires her pupils to do. Poor lighting, noisy home conditions, and the help of parents all work against the child studying in the home, she said. Too little time is left the child for family pleasures and hobbies.

As acceptable types of homework, Mrs. Beaman named three: good reading; oral reading, for pupils in the lower grades; and the making up of studies the child has missed when absent.

Speaking for the teachers, Mrs. Allmand explained that homework was necessary for pupils to cover nine months of work in eight months. In presenting her views she stressed the importance of homework as a means by which the interested parent can follow the process of the school, as a means of added practice in the teacher's plan, and as an encouragement to further reading and reference work.

The general opinion of the assembly was that homework is necessary for the pupil to eliminate the deficiencies of an eight months' term in the Marion schools.

The meeting was presided over by Mrs. L. J. P. Cutlar, acting president for Mrs. Beaman, who took part in the program.

Rev. David T. McBee addressed the assembly on the work of the Faith Mission in Marion.

Presented awards for their attendance record were Miss Bonnie Burgin in the grammar school and Miss Alice Moretz in the high school.

CHANGE IN JAIL PLAN IS FOUND NECESSARY

Some alterations in the plans for the new addition to the jail here were found to be necessary by the McDowell county commissioners, meeting in the court house Monday. The plans were found to be inadequate to care for the segregation of juvenile and older prisoners. Such requirements are necessary under state law, it was pointed out.

It is not expected that these slight changes will hold up work on the building, which will probably be begun within the next three weeks.

The commissioners appointed E. A. Allanach surveyor of McDowell county to fill out the unexpired term of W. H. Greenlee, deceased.

A special meeting of the board of commissioners has been called for next Tuesday at two o'clock to discuss with the architect possible changes in the plans for the court-house annex.

CHURCHES UNITE FOR PRAYER SERVICE FRIDAY

A prayer service in observance of the World Day of Prayer will be held at St. John's Episcopal church in Marion next Friday afternoon from two until three o'clock. The service will be under the direction of Rev. Norman F. Kinzie. Members of all church congregations in Marion are invited to the service.

The Day of Prayer is being observed throughout the world by churches of every denomination. The theme this year is "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength."

Interest Grows In Resources Of Local Library

Many New Editions Have Been Received; Interest In Books Stimulated.

Interest in Marion's Community Library is rapidly increasing, according to figures compiled by Mrs. Coit Edison, senior clerk. During the past few months the circulation of books has doubled and some 1,299 persons are now registered to use the books deposited there.

Forty-three new editions of popular books have been received this week. These will soon be ready for the reading public.

The most treasured volume now in possession of the Library is one recently received from Mary Margaret Greenlee. Entitled "Availability and Use of Environmental Materials in McDowell County, North Carolina," the volume is the most comprehensive study yet made of the possibilities of this county, its natural and industrial resources.

Considerable work is being done by the librarians in attempting to stimulate interest in books, particularly those dealing with national figures of the past. This month the Library is showing posters and displays illustrating events in the lives of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. A valentine display shares one part of the room. Each of these is aimed at drawing interest to books.

New additions which were recently added to the library are: Gulliver's Travels by Swift, Littlest Rebel by Seple, Little Minister by Barrie, Two Years Before the Mast by Dana, Poems Every Child Should Know by Burt, Love of Ann Rutledge by Babcock, Story of My Life by Helen Keller, Bambi by Salter, To Have and to Hold by Johnson, Timberline by Montgomery, Wizard of Oz by Baum, Black Narcissus by Godden, Mother Goose, Hans Brinker by Dodge, Castle Secrets by Seiwright, Johnny Appleseed by Lindsay, Hawthorne's Wonder Book, Alice in Wonderland by Carroll, Pilgrim's Progress by Bunyan, Manners Can Be Fun, Treasure Island by Stevenson, Saranga by Gatti, Victor Herbert by Kaye, Wind Sand and Stars by Esu-perry, The Tar Heel Editor by Josephus Daniels, The Great Tradition by Keyes, Knights of the Range by Ane Grey, Kitty Foyle by Morley, One Fight More by Ertz, Brentwood by Hill, Next to My Heart by Miller, Chiffon Scarf by Eberhart, Easy to Kill by Christie, Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, Wuthering Heights by Bronte, Dark Horse by James, Anne of Ingleside by Montgomery, Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm by Wiggins, Picocchio by Colodi, Five Little Peppers by Sidney, Moment in Peking by Yutang, Stories in the Old Testament by Peter-sham, and Availability and Use of Environmental Materials in McDowell County by Mary Margaret Greenlee.

BUSINESS AT LOCAL FREIGHT OFFICE GOOD

"Business this year is much better than last," said George W. Sandlin, freight agent at the local office, this week, basing this statement on the amount of freight handled through his office for the town of Marion.

The platform on the local freight depot has been rebuilt and a side-track changed to facilitate the handling of freight. According to Mr. Sandlin, facilities of the depot are still inadequate to handle the business of the railroad here. More side-tracks and storage space are needed to care for local freight, he said. The town of Marion has outgrown its depot, he added.

LEE GOES TO ASHEVILLE

John N. Lee, who has been working in the Marion office of the North Carolina Employment Service as senior claims interviewer, has been transferred to the Asheville office of the Service.

Mr. Lee has made his home in Marion since June. He is a native of Statesville.

CITY TAX BOOKS SHOW \$33,909.15 COLLECTED SINCE LAST OCTOBER

Tax collections for the town of Marion up to February 1 are running behind those of the corresponding period last year, according to information received from H. T. Conley town clerk and tax collector, last week.

Up to February 1 of this year \$33,909.15 was received in the tax office as compared to \$35,001.38 at the same time last year. The tax levy for this fiscal year, or the total receipts expected if all taxes are paid, is \$51,463.47 as compared to a somewhat smaller levy of \$50,039.39 for the fiscal year 1938-39.

The failure of payments to keep up with those of last year is attributed to the decrease in the deductions allowed for early payment of taxes.

In 1938 a three per cent reduction was given to all persons paying their taxes in October. The discount was lowered each month by one per cent until net payments were required in January, 1939. Increases in taxes for late payments began with one per cent for February, 1939 and grew larger until the penalty reached six per cent in September.

Because of State regulation a discount of only one-half of one per cent was allowed on tax payments made in October, 1939. Net payments were required in November and December of 1939 and January of 1940. A one per cent penalty became effective last Thursday, February 1. The penalty for late payment will increase to two per cent in March and will increase by one-half of one per cent each month after that until the tax books are closed in September.

CONSERVATION CHECKS BEING DELIVERED HERE

Payments amounting to \$10,496.20 are ready for delivery to McDowell county farmers for compliance work with the soil conservation program during 1939, announced County Agent S. L. Homewood this week.

Of the 1,402 farms in the county, 870 are listed as having complied fully or in part in 1939. It is expected that the total payments for the county will run around \$16,000, said Homewood. If all farmers in the county had complied during the past year, they could have earned \$22,116.01, he said.

Cards are being mailed out from the county agent's office informing farmers when to call for their conservation checks. Those receiving such cards are required to call at the county agent's office within 14 days, bringing the notice. According to Mr. Homewood no checks will be given to farmers who have not received notice that their check is in the office.

ANOTHER CANDIDATE FOR REGISTER OF DEEDS

Another new candidate yesterday entered the race for the Democratic nomination for Register of Deeds. Thomas W. Gowan of Buck Creek community formally declared his intention of seeking the office now held by R. V. McGimsey.

This announcement brings to three the number of Democratic candidates for the register's post, David M. Steppe and Zeb L. Lackey having tossed in their hats last week.

Mr. Gowan is a member of the well known family of this county. He is the son of the late J. P. and Mrs. Kate Carson Gowan. He is chairman of the county board of elections and county game protector.

CORNETT GOES TO METHODIST RALLY

Rev. J. C. Cornett, superintendent of the Marion district of the Methodist church, attended a conference-wide rally of the Methodist church in Winston-Salem yesterday.

At the rally were representatives of Methodist churches in Western North Carolina. Scheduled to speak were Bishop Edwin H. Hughes, Washington, D. C.; Bishop Ernest Lynn Waldorf, Chicago; and Bishop Lester H. Smith of Cincinnati.

Following this meeting district rallies will be held throughout Western North Carolina. The meeting for the Marion district is scheduled for the first church here on March 13. The guest speaker on that occasion will be Bishop Clare Purcell.

Fires Destroy Much Land In Pisgah Forest

Bosworth Reports 437 Acres Destroyed, Damage Higher Than in 1938.

Approximately 437 acres of land under the care of the Pisgah National Forest Service in McDowell county was burned over during the past year, announced H. B. Bosworth, Forest Supervisor, in summarizing the 1939 fire season last week. Some of these fires did not start on National Forest land.

Some 15 fires in this forest district burned over 2,991 acres of Government land, as compared with 55 fires and 268 acres in 1938, he said. Due to the long fall drought, when no rain fell for 43 days in many parts of the forest, and to the accompanying high winds which evaporated what little moisture there was this was the worst fall fire season since 1925.

Fires that last year were promptly handled by small ten-men crews, this year required ten times that many men to keep them from spreading far and wide. Only through the help of public-minded citizens in reporting fires and the close cooperation of all state and federal agencies were the losses held as low as they were.

When North Carolina Forests burn the greatest losses are often not in the merchantable timber destroyed, serious though they are, but in the destruction of watershed protective ground cover and the consequent reduction in regular stream flow, in the loss of fertility of burned soil and its readier erosion, in the killing by fire and smoke of all small game animals and birds and the loss of their homes and feeding grounds for many years to come. Even though the larger trees may survive the fire, the young thin-barked seedlings on which the next timber crop depends are almost always killed.

Then there is the loss in recreational values—a loss that hits us all, particularly in Western North Carolina where we are doing our best to attract people to this land of the sky. No one likes to drive or hike through a desolate, blackened fire-devastated area where only bare rock, briars and dead charred snags meet the eye. That's not the kind of country visitors come to see, so let us be careful with fire in the forest, for all these losses to the public forests are largely preventable.

Of the 151 fires on the Pisgah National Forest 145 were man-caused through carelessness or the negligence of the forest users. Warming fires left burning, cigarette stubs flipped into dry grass along roads and trails, and brush-clearing fires that got out of control accounted for a majority of our forest fires. Most people are careful with fire, but a few are not, and so all of us must cooperate to watch the heedless ones and insist that they "get religion" in the matter of keeping our forests green.

MARION HIGH TAKES THREE WINS, ONE LOSS

The boys' basketball team of the Marion high school recorded two wins this week to remain undefeated this season. Last Friday night they downed Morganton 44-18 and last Tuesday night they took a win over Forest City 54-23.

The girls' team was defeated by Morganton last Friday night 47-18, but came back Tuesday night to mark up their first win of the season, defeating Forest City 24-22.

Outstanding in Tuesday night's game were E. Ruffy, who scored 11 points for the Marion girls, and Mac-Brayer, who scored 14 points for the Forest City girls.

In Tuesday's boys' game W. Kay-lor and W. Mask led in scoring for Marion with 16 points each. Hyder was high man for Forest City with 13 points.

Next Friday Marion high meets Morganton in Morganton and the North Carolina School for Deaf comes here for a game on Tuesday night.

Patronize home merchants.