

## Marion Hi School Building Partially Destroyed By Fire Wednesday Afternoon

Loss Is Estimated At Between  
Fifty And Seventy - Five  
Thousand Dollars.

Fire swept the Marion high school building here late yesterday afternoon and raged for approximately two and one-half hours before firemen of Marion and Morganton were able to bring it under control.

The blaze was thought to have originated in a small room in the west end of the building. It was first discovered by the janitor who notified city teachers who were conducting a meeting in the auditorium.

The fire appeared to have started in the wall of a small room on the west end where the wiring for the building entered, said Mr. Hugh Beam, superintendent of Marion schools, who was one of the first to see the blaze.

The fire was discovered about 4:30 and firemen were still playing water on the third floor at seven o'clock last night although the fire was practically extinguished.

School children and townspeople poured into the building when the fire was discovered and removed furniture and school equipment, much of it being tossed out of windows.

The greatest damage to the building was on the west end where the roof was destroyed and furniture, books, and records were ruined. Plastering was down in many of the rooms in other parts of the building and water had greatly damaged most of the building.

Little headway was made in fighting the fire until parts of the roof of the building were torn off and hoses were played on the burning partitions.

The call for help by the local fire department was answered by the Morganton force at about 5:30 when a truck arrived here.

Damages to the building were estimated at between \$50,000 and \$75,000 by Mr. Beam. His estimate includes the damage done to equipment and furnishings.

School has been suspended for the remainder of the week. The school board is scheduled to meet today and it is expected that provisions may be made by which school can be conducted in other quarters beginning Monday.

The janitor of the school building and Mr. Tuttle, an employe of the town, suffered minor arm injuries in the fire.

### COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEN TO BE RECOMMENDED

The Democratic executive committee of McDowell county will meet in the courthouse here at two o'clock Saturday afternoon to recommend men for appointment to the county board of elections, announced R. W. Proctor, Democratic executive committee chairman, this week.

Those persons recommended by the executive committee must be approved by the State Board of Elections and those approved will elect a chairman from their number, he said.

The McDowell county Board of Elections must decide this year whether the registration books are to be revised or whether a new registration is to be held, he said. Some change must be made because of new state requirements making it necessary for voters to be registered according to their party affiliation, both for the primary and general election. Under the new rules a voter can't change his party affiliation after the registration books are closed, said Mr. Proctor.

All Democratic candidates for office must file on or before April 13. Filing must be done with the county board of elections and filing fees are one per cent of the annual salary of the office sought and one per cent of the fees with a minimum of \$5 for those offices on a fee basis.

Registration books in McDowell county will be open April 27 and will close May 11.

## NEW DUKE MANAGERS



J. A. WIER



J. D. HENRY

## NEW MANAGERS APPOINTED BY DUKE POWER CO.

J. D. Henry Transferred To  
Rutherfordton District; J.  
A. Wier Comes To Marion.

J. D. Henry, who has been manager of the Marion district of the Duke Power Company for the past eight or nine years, has been promoted to the managership of the enlarged Rutherfordton district to succeed the late J. R. Anderson who passed away several days ago. Announcement to this effect has been made by Vice-President E. C. Marshall at Charlotte.

J. A. Wier, who has been manager of the Madison district of the Power Company for the past several years, has been promoted to succeed Mr. Henry as manager at Marion. Mr. Wier is a native of Lebanon, Tenn., and an electrical engineering graduate of the University of Tennessee. After his graduation he spent two years in the testing shops and laboratories of the General Electric Company. Before becoming manager of the Madison district he was connected with the Greensboro branch of the Power Company where he served in several capacities. He has had a well rounded experience in the utilities business, and is regarded as one of the outstanding young men in the Duke organization.

Mr. Henry has already assumed his duties as manager of the Rutherfordton district, but will continue to spend some time in Marion until Mr. Wier becomes familiar with the situation in this district. Mr. Henry's promotion to the managership of the enlarged Rutherfordton district is a distinct tribute to his capacity and talent as a utilities executive.

Mr. Henry is a native of North Wilkesboro. He was graduated from North Carolina State College at Raleigh in 1923, taking his degree in electrical engineering. After two years in the test shops and laboratories of the General Electric Company, he joined the Duke Power organization at Winston-Salem in 1925. He served in several capacities in that branch, and then for a short period he took over as manager of the Taylorsville district. He was promoted to the managership of the Marion branch in 1932.

Mr. Henry is president of the Merchants' Association, he is a member of the Kiwanis and identified with various other organizations. He has taken an active part in public affairs since coming to Marion and has many friends here who will regret his leaving.

### P.T.A. MEETING AT NEBO THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

The Nebo P.T.A. will meet February 22 at 7:30 o'clock. Founders' Day will be observed, celebrating the 43rd year of P.T.A. There will be music on the program honoring Stephen Foster, the composer. A discussion of the "Should the Federal Government Aid the Schools" will be heard.

## JUDGE STORY IS NAMED HEAD OF BAR ASSOCIATION

Elected President At Meeting  
Thursday Evening; Other  
Officers Named.

P. J. Story, judge of the McDowell county court, was elected president of the McDowell county Bar Association at the semi-annual banquet-meeting of the Association held in the Community building here last Thursday night. He succeeds R. W. Proctor.

Other officers elected were G. F. Washburn, vice-president, succeeded P. J. Story; and W. C. Chambers, secretary-treasurer, succeeding Roy W. Davis. The new officers took over their duties at the Thursday night meeting.

W. C. Chambers read a paper which he had prepared titled "Some Basic Principles of an Estate by the Entirety." On motion of Superior Court Judge Frank M. Armstrong of Troy, who presided in Superior court here last week, the Association agreed to furnish a copy of the paper to the North Carolina Law Review for publication.

Short talks were given by Roy W. Davis, W. R. Chambers, Judge Frank M. Armstrong, and J. F. Moody. E. A. Morgan was appointed to prepare a paper on some legal topic for presentation to the Association at the next meeting in August.

W. D. Lonon welcomed Hugh Beam and A. P. Honeycutt, licensed attorneys who are not now practicing. The response was given by Mr. Honeycutt.

Present at the meeting were Judge Frank M. Armstrong, Judge J. W. Pless, Jr., W. R. Chambers, Roy W. Davis, W. D. Lonon, W. C. Chambers, E. A. Morgan, C. C. Lisenbee, G. F. Washburn, J. F. Moody, Hugh Beam, and A. P. Honeycutt.

The banquet was served by ladies of the First Presbyterian church

### CARTIER CHOSEN SEC. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Walter Cartier of Charlotte has been selected as secretary of the Marion Chamber of Commerce, it was announced yesterday.

Mr. Cartier was formerly director of playgrounds in Charlotte and will take up his work here on March 1. He will take over the office vacated by Oliver Cross, who resigned February to accept a position with the Cross Mills.

The announcement of the new secretary was made yesterday following a meeting of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce. It is understood that several applications for the office of secretary were considered by the directors.

### THIRD PASSION PORTRAIT ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN

Next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, the St. Matthew's Lutheran church will present the third Passion Portrait, "The Religious Formalist." At the 7:30 services the topic will be "The Defending Christian." All are welcome.

## MARION MAN KILLED WHEN STRUCK BY TRAIN

William Lawrence Kimsey, 37, of Marion, was instantly killed last Saturday night when he was struck by a freight train on the Southern track about two and one-half miles west of Marion.

According to Sheriff Grady Nichols, who investigated the accident with coroner G. B. Justice, Kimsey was found lying beside the railroad track. At the time of the mishap he was accompanied by Carl Hensley.

Hensley was said to have crossed the tracks and to have returned to them in search of Kimsey.

Kimsey had apparently been struck by the side of the train, said Coroner G. B. Justice. He suffered a broken hip, bruises on the back, and lacerations on the head.

Funeral services were conducted from the Westmoreland funeral home in Marion at 11 o'clock Monday morning with the Rev. Clayton of East Marion officiating. Interment was in the Hoover cemetery.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Mallie Lanning Kimsey; two daughters, Georgia and Ollie Mae Kimsey; two sons, Willard and Ray Kimsey; and two sisters, Mrs. Kate Smith and Mrs. Albert Shirlen, all of Marion.

## PLESS IS INJURED IN AUTOMOBILE COLLISION

Judge J. Will Pless, Jr., Superior court judge of the 18th judicial district, of Marion, received minor injuries Monday morning about eight o'clock when his automobile collided with a car occupied by two negro men of Morganton on Highway No. 70 a short distance from Glen Alpine in Burke county.

Judge Pless suffered a cut on the forehead which required several stitches to close. He was brought to his home here shortly after the accident.

He was en route to Mt. Airy to open Superior court there when the accident occurred.

One of the negro occupants of the other car was taken to Morganton where he received first aid treatment for cuts.

## JAMES SAYS HE WILL NOT SEEK SEAT IN THE SENATE

R. L. (Bob) James, of Marion, who announced the first of February that he would be a candidate for the State Senate in the May primary, has withdrawn from the race.

With the withdrawal of Mr. James from the Senate race two candidates are left in the running for that office. They are Ashby Robinson of Old Fort and L. J. P. Cutlar of Marion, who announced this week.

In announcing his withdrawal from the race, Mr. James said, "Due to new and additional business connections that will require all of my time, I will be unable to continue as a candidate for the nomination for the State Senate in the Democratic primary May 25, 1940."

## TOWN SUBMITS WPA PROJECTS FOR STREETS

An application for a \$56,048 WPA project for the paving and improving of several city streets in Marion was sent off to WPA officials last Saturday.

The project as submitted calls for an outlay of \$20,094 on the part of the town and the sum of \$35,954 to be contributed by the Federal government, according to E. R. Keeter, superintendent of water works of Marion.

The project was approved by the board of aldermen at its regular monthly meeting last week.

Curbing and surfacing will be placed on North Logan and Crawford streets, Avenue A, Morgan Terrace and Crescent Drive, should the project be approved. Curbing will be placed on Morgan street and sidewalks will be extended on North Main and West Court streets.

Should the project be approved it is planned for work to start on the city streets in the early spring.

## HOLIDAY FOR BANKS

Both the First National and the Marion Industrial banks of Marion will be closed February 22 in observance of Washington's birthday. The date is a national holiday for banks.

## THREE ANNOUNCE FOR OFFICES OF STATE, COUNTY

Cutlar In Race For Senate;  
Hall For House, Chapman  
For Register Of Deeds.

One candidate for the office of Register of Deeds of McDowell county and one each for the North Carolina lower house and senate, announced this week that they would seek election in the Democratic primary in May.

G. W. Chapman has announced for Register of Deeds and L. J. P. Cutlar and Horace J. Hall have given notice that they will be in the race for the Senate and House, respectively.

Mr. Cutlar announced last week that he was considering entering the race for the House. His decision to run for the Senate was announced this week. He is now engaged in the insurance business here and was formerly connected with furniture manufacturing. He has served as mayor of Marion and is well known in McDowell county, having been active in public affairs for some time.

Mr. Chapman is a well known farmer and lumberman of the Pleasant Gardens section of McDowell county. He is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Chapman and is a native of the county. He has been active in the Methodist church of his community and has taken part in public affairs of the county.

Horace J. Hall is the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Hall of East Marion. He received his education at the Marion high school and the Textile Institute College of Spartanburg, S. C. He is a former member of the faculty of South Mountain Institute is a member of the East Marion Baptist church and a native of this county.

Mr. Chapman's announcement brings the number seeking the Register of Deeds office to six. Already announced are John M. Stepp, Mack L. Dixon, D. M. Steppe, Zeb L. Lackey, and T. W. Gowan.

Mr. Hall is to seek the office that is being vacated by Ashby Robinson of Old Fort, who will seek a seat in the State Senate. D. F. Giles of Marion has already announced his candidacy for the House. Mr. Cutlar and Ashby Robinson will be in the race for the State Senate.

## MORE CONSERVATION CHECKS ARE RECEIVED

Soil conservation checks for 128 more farms in McDowell county have been received in the county agent's office this week, it has been announced by S. L. Homewood.

The checks represent a sum of \$1,683.05 and will bring the total distributed to farmers in this county to \$12,179.25. These payments have been earned by planting soil conserving crops and by returning many of them to the soil in 1939.

According to Mr. Homewood, 744 of the 1,402 farms in McDowell will receive soil conservation payments. This leaves some 71 farms yet to receive checks.

Those persons to receive checks will be notified by the County Agent and must present this notice at the local office to receive payment.

Some 550 farms have already signed up to comply with the soil conservation program in 1940. The deadline for signing for compliance in 1940 is April 15, said Mr. Homewood.

## VACANT OFFICE BURNS

Fire of unknown origin raked a vacant office building on South Garden street last Thursday night.

The old office was located alongside the railroad and was owned by Toke Brown of Valdese. It was formerly used as an office by the Gilkey Veneering plant, but has been vacant for the last few years.

The blaze was discovered at about nine o'clock Thursday night. Only the walls and part of the roof were left standing. No damage was done to adjoining property.