

## School To Begin Monday In Fire Swept Building

### Parts Of Structure Declared Safe By Inspector Of State Department.

School will begin Monday in the Marion high school building after having been suspended since February 21 because of an estimated \$50,000 fire which razed part of the west section of the building.

Parts of the school building have been declared safe for the holding of classes by Sherwood Brockwell, inspector of the State Insurance Commission, who was in Marion on Tuesday. He authorized the use of all sections of the building not directly involved in the fire and stated that partitions must be placed in the building between the burned parts and those not damaged by the fire.

Plans for the reopening of the school were made at a meeting of the school board this week. At the meeting were architects who were interviewed about the costs of repairing the school building and the approximate damages. It is not known when work will be started or what the plans for the work on the building are.

According to Hugh Beam, superintendent of Marion city schools, the electrical, plumbing and heating equipment will be checked over before school starts. Estimates of the damage caused by the fire have not been made by insurance men, he said, but an inventory of the damaged property is being worked up so that an insurance adjustment can be made at an early date.

"The spirit of the high school pupils has been excellent, and they have been making every effort possible to make the best of conditions caused by the fire," said Mr. Beam.

Since a large part of the building has been damaged by the fire, some classes will be held in the Presbyterian church basement, in the Methodist hut, and probably in part of the city hall.

High school pupils will report to the school auditorium at 8:30 Monday morning to learn of adjustments that have been made in schedules and where classes will be held.

### REFORESTATION WORK BEING DONE IN COUNTY

Reforestation work in McDowell county received an added impetus this week with the announcement that the Marion Manufacturing Company will set out 15,000 tree seedlings on a part of its land. The planting of the trees will be under the supervision of Mr. Barker, assistant extension forester of State College, who will be in Marion March 13 to take charge of the work.

The announcement was made by County Agent S. L. Homewood, who stated that the Marion Manufacturing Company purchase of seedlings brought the number of trees purchased through his office this year to approximately 26,500.

Four landowners in McDowell will earn soil conservation payments by their reforestation work, said Mr. Homewood. They are H. A. Ragan of Old Fort, P. H. Whitener of the Dysartsville section, T. W. Sarton of the Montford's Cove community, and Mrs. Pearl Pruette of the Crooked Creek section.

White pine seedlings will be planted by the Marion Manufacturing Company, while short-leaf pine and black locust plants have also been used by the landowners in conservation work.

### DAVID STEPPE WITHDRAWS FROM RACE FOR REGISTER

David M. Steppe, who announced recently that he would be a candidate for the office of Register of Deeds, announced this week that he would withdraw from the race. Mr. Steppe stated that he did not deem it wise to continue in the race in as much as another candidate for the same position is a close relative of his.

He stated further that "it is my plan to continue to be loyal to the Democratic party and to all of its principles."

### HOME BUILDING MAKES REPORT ON 1939 WORK; OFFICERS RE-ELECTED

The Home Building Association of Marion made 58 new loans during the year 1939, representing the sum of \$50,500, reported Miss Gwendolyn Moore, secretary of the Association, at the annual stockholders meeting last Thursday night.

According to Miss Moore 43 loans representing the sum of \$52,560, were retired during the year and 1,910 new shares of installment stock were issued.

Dividends to the stockholders on both installment and paid-up stock amounted to \$11,649.02. Some 186 mortgage loans were reported held at the end of the year.

All officers and directors of the Home Building Association were re-elected. Directors chosen to continue in office by the stockholders were J. D. Blanton, E. A. Beaman, W. C. Smith, Roy W. Davis, W. S. Shiftlet, R. W. Proctor, J. C. Rabb, S. L. Copeland and R. B. Crisp.

Officers of the Association re-elected by the directors were J. D. Blanton, president; S. L. Copeland, vice-president; Gwendolyn Moore, secretary-treasurer; and R. W. Proctor, attorney. Chosen to continue their work on the loan committee were W. C. Smith, Roy W. Davis, and J. C. Rabb.

### BLANTON TO HEAD LOCAL DRIVE FOR FUNDS FOR FINNS

C. David Blanton of Marion was this week notified of his appointment as local chairman for "Fighting Funds for Finland, Inc."

Appointed to a committee to aid the drive locally were representatives of Marion civic clubs. Those taking part in the work will be Mrs. G. L. Conley, Jr., president of the Junior Woman's club; Mrs. Homer Beaman, president of the Marion Parent-Teachers association; Mrs. W. O. Gibbs, president of the Senior Women's club; Frank Goldsmith, president of the Francis Marion club; Cecil Dobson, president of Kiwanis; Dean Tainter, president of the Rotary club; Hugh F. Beam, superintendent of the Marion city schools; Neal Morris, cashier of the First National Bank; F. B. Morgan, publisher of the McDowell News; and S. E. Whitten, publisher of the Marion Progress.

The organization, according to George Watts Hill, state chairman, of Durham, "is a voluntary agency now being organized throughout every state in the Union to receive 'voluntary' contributions from those Americans who are interested in aiding Finland.

"The purpose of this organization is to collect cash with which guns and airplanes can be purchased for the Finns," he said, "and is not to be confused with the Finnish Relief Program headed by ex-President Herbert Hoover."

The First National Bank of Marion has been designated as the depository of funds collected for the cause here. The funds will be forwarded weekly by the local bank to headquarters of the organization in Durham.

Serving as members of the State committee for "Fighting Funds for Finland" are Governor Clyde R. Hoey, Dorsey Pruden of Raleigh, Kemp D. Battle of Rocky Mount, Carl Goerch of Raleigh and Peter Brown Ruffin of Wilmington.

In explaining the aims of the organization Hill said, "I have definite assurance from National Headquarters in New York and the Finnish Legation in Washington that the Finnish situation is not hopeless; that with the help of material assistance from America, as well as England and France, the Finns may be able to hold off the Russians.

"Speed is essential."

### WIER ARRIVES

J. A. Wier, who has succeeded J. D. Henry as manager of the Marion district of the Duke Power Company arrived here Monday with his wife and daughter.

Mr. Wier has been in charge of the Madison district of the power company and was formerly located with the same company in Greensboro.

Mr. Henry has been given charge of the Rutherfordton district of the company.

## E. Marion Wins Francis Marion Tournament Here

### Rhodiss Bows To Locals; Glenwood Downs North Cove For Consolation.

With four wins to its credit, the East Marion basketball team was declared the winner of the fourth annual basketball tournament held here last week. Winning their first two games with ease, the East Marion five ran into stiff opposition against Valdese Friday night but came from behind to take the game at 35-32.

Paced by the Dunn twins, Rhodiss threatened throughout the final game of the series to eliminate the East Marion quintet. East Marion led 12-10 at the half and during the final period increased her lead to win 26-21.

Glenwood was consolation winner, downing North Cove 51-36 in the finals. Glenwood was eliminated from the race for winner on the first day of play by Pleasant Gardens, which was in turn defeated by Rhodiss. Glenwood then came through with a win over Nebo and took consolation honors by defeating North Cove in the finals 51-36.

### TOURNAMENT SUMMARY:

Wednesday night; Pleasant Gardens over Glenwood, 39-35; East Marion over North Cove, 63-19; Crossnore over Nebo, 38-32; Spindale over Glen Alpine, 39-24.

Thursday night; East Marion over Harris, 71-21; Rhodiss over Pleasant Gardens.

### TRUSTEES OF HOSPITAL DISCUSS SPACE NEEDS

The directors of the Marion General Hospital discussed plans for the possible remodeling or rearranging of space in the hospital at a meeting held last Friday and decided to get estimates on the costs of either project.

The use of the fourth floor of the building was suggested but its use would require remodeling. Further suggestions were made that the business office be moved from the third floor to the basement and the rooms be used as private rooms, and the emergency operating room in the basement be used for negro patients.

According to L. J. P. Cutlar, one architect has been consulted about the possible costs of changes in the hospital but no estimates have been received.

A plan for the building of a new wing to the hospital at the approximate cost of \$15,000 has been abandoned because the money cannot be raised at the present time.

### MARION P.-T. A. ASSOCIATION TO MEET NEXT MONDAY

Mrs. J. H. Beaman, president of the Marion P.-T. A., has announced that the next Parent-Teacher meeting will be held at 3:30 on the afternoon of March 4th in the auditorium of the Marion High School. Mrs. W. P. Dorsey of Rutherfordton, district president, will speak on "Guiding Principles of the Parent-Teacher Association."

The study group meeting will be held at 3:00, March 4, in room 18 of the Marion high school building. Mrs. L. J. P. Cutlar will lead the discussion on "When Boy Meets Girl." This meeting will be of especial interest to the parents of high school students.

### NEW ROOM IS BEING PROVIDED FOR LIBRARY

Work was begun yesterday on a new room for the Marion library in the Community building. A part of the banquet hall on the main floor is being partitioned off and this will house the library.

The room to be vacated by the library was formerly used by the women's clubs of Marion and it will again be used for that purpose when the change is made.

The front entrance to the library will be the one that is now used for the street entrance to the banquet hall, the library room being constructed in the east end of the building.

## Tournament For County Schools Set For Tonight

### To Be Played in Old Fort With Five Schools Being Represented In Play.

The McDowell county high school basketball tournament will get under way tonight in the Old Fort gymnasium at 6:00 o'clock.

Five schools will be represented in the tournament; both girls' and boys' teams will take part. Tonight the Pleasant Gardens girls will meet the North Cove girls and Nebo girls will play Old Fort. The Old Fort boys will play North Cove and Glenwood will tackle Nebo.

In the play Friday night Glenwood girls will play the winner of the Pleasant Gardens-North Cove meet and the Pleasant Gardens boys will meet the winner of the Old Fort-North Cove tilt. In the consolation play the losers in the Pleasant Gardens-North Cove and Nebo-Old Fort girls' games will meet Friday night. The losers of the Old Fort-North Cove and Glenwood-Nebo boys' games will also play Friday night for the consolation series.

Saturday night the finals will be played with four games scheduled.

The Nebo and Pleasant Gardens girls' teams are considered dark horses in the tournament. In the boys' race the teams are rather evenly matched with no single one being favored.

Pleasant Gardens girls and boys won in the tournament last year and the year before the honors went to Glenwood. Silver cups go to the winners.

In charge of the tournament in Old Fort is S. A. McDuffie. Officials in the tournament will be W. J. Waters of the Sugar Hill school, James Hopper of Harris, Alley Steppe and Garnet White.

### BAPTISTS TO CONDUCT PRAYER MEETING SUN.

Special prayer meetings of Baptists will be held throughout McDowell county on the afternoon of Sunday, March 3, at 2:30 o'clock. The meetings have been planned by the Blue Ridge Baptist Association in preparation for the semi-annual meeting of the Association to be held March 31.

McDowell county has been divided into five districts for the meetings. One church in each district will serve as the meeting place for all Baptists in that district.

District one includes the following churches whose members will meet at Cross Mill Baptist church with Rev. J. H. Henline in charge: Cross Mill, Marion First Baptist, Clinchfield, East Marion, West Marion, Garden Creek, Clear Creek, Yancey Street and Sunny Vale.

The district two meetings will be held at the Old Fort Baptist church with Rev. W. E. Pettit in charge. It includes the Old Fort, Brookside, Catawba Falls, Cherry Springs, Bethlehem, Greenlee, and Stone Mountain churches.

District three includes Woodlawn, Turkey Cove, North Cove, Pepper's Creek, and Hankins churches and the meeting will be held in the Woodlawn church with Rev. Hollifield in charge.

District four, including the Glenwood, Bethel, Chapel Hill, and Zion Hill churches, will have its meeting in the Glenwood church with Rev. Paul Reese in charge.

In district five the meeting will be held in the Dysartsville church with Rev. L. G. Redding. The district includes Dysartsville, Nebo, Macedonia, Sunny Grove, Laurel Hill and Harmony Grove churches.

### POULTRY SPECIALIST TO SPEAK IN COUNTY

T. T. Brown, a poultry specialist of Raleigh, will be in McDowell county Thursday, March 14, at the Bethlehem Lodge hall. Mr. Brown will discuss with interested people the raising of poultry and methods found most practicable.

The meeting will be held for both men and women. It is scheduled to start at 2:00 o'clock, Thursday, March 14.



**NEW SECRETARY** — Walter J. Cartier, above, who will assume duties of secretary of Marion Chamber of Commerce March 1.

### CARTIER PREPARES TO TAKE UP WORK HERE

Walter J. Cartier, of Charlotte, newly elected secretary of the Marion Chamber of Commerce, will arrive in Marion today to begin preparations for taking up his work with the Chamber on March 1.

Mr. Cartier was chosen for the position last week. He will succeed Oliver J. Cross, who resigned February 15 to take up other duties.

Mr. Cartier has had much experience with Chamber of Commerce work. Among programs sponsored by chambers of commerce, he organized and directed the 150th anniversary pageant of the Burlington, Vermont, group; organized and was executive secretary of the Columbus Centennial celebration in Columbus, Georgia; directed a historic pageant in Augusta, Georgia; served as master of ceremonies for the Kings Mountain battle ground celebration and the Green Pastures rally for the Charlotte group; and for three years conducted the "Voice of Charlotte" radio program for the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

He is a native of Burlington, Vermont, and received his education at Springfield College in Massachusetts, the National Recreation Training school in Chicago, and the Y.M.C.A. Business college in Philadelphia.

He has organized and directed recreation work at Danville, Virginia, and Augusta, Georgia; was superintendent of parks and recreation in Columbus, Georgia, and served in the same capacity in Charlotte for 11 years; and was a director of high-way beautification work for the Carolina Motor club. He has been active in Scout work.

### WORK ON ADDITION TO COURTHOUSE DELAYED

It is expected that work on the WPA project for an addition to the jail part of the McDowell county courthouse will be delayed until the middle of March.

The scarcity of suitable labor to carry on the work is understood to have delayed the project which had been scheduled to begin about March 4th.

B. W. Breeze, engineer who will be in charge of the building of the addition, conferred with county commissioners here yesterday when it was decided to delay the beginning of work on the project.

### FOURTH PORTRAIT AT LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAY

St. Matthew's Lutheran church will present the fourth Passion Portrait to the public next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. The portrait will be "The Cowardly Compromiser." The subject at 7:30 will be "The Lacking Christian." All are welcome.

## Benefits Of Tour To Florida Are Cited By Cross

### Points To Publicity Methods Used And Their Value To This Section.

By Oliver J. Cross  
After traveling almost 2,500 miles through North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, the First Annual Western North Carolina Mayors Tour of Florida returned to the Tar Heel state Saturday evening and disbanded.

Members of the tour were unanimous in their belief that the tour has been highly successful in bringing Western North Carolina publicity and in calling the attractions of this section to the attention of tourists and residents in Florida.

Enthusiasm was expressed by members of the tour for staging a similar good will trip each year.

Approximately 100,000 pieces of literature were distributed in the cities where the cavalcade stopped. Of these, a good portion was made up of the literature especially printed for the trip. This literature advertised Western North Carolina as a whole and was attractively made up. One folder showed scenic attractions to be found in this section of the state together with a map showing highway routes from Florida through Western North Carolina leading to the east and middle west.

Approximately 4,000 pieces of literature concerning Marion as an industrial and recreational center were placed in hotels and chamber of commerce offices and distributed to persons in the cities of Florida and Georgia. These pamphlets, recently printed, showed scenes in the mountains near Marion, hunting, golfing, fishing, and water sports on the lakes. Also displayed in the pamphlets were pictures of some of Marion's industrial plants. Several hundred pamphlets advertising Linville Caverns were placed.

Western North Carolina was also advertised through numerous radio broadcasts from Florida and Georgia cities. The time used on these broadcasts was given to the tour free.

### NOTED LECTURER COMING TO MARION

Dr. Charles E. Barker, lecturer and teacher of the principles of health, will be in Marion March 15, to deliver three lectures. He will appear here under the auspices of the Marion Rotary club.

On the morning of March 15 he is scheduled to speak at the Pleasant Gardens school at 11:30 o'clock. At noon he addresses the Marion Rotary at its luncheon and a night meeting will be held in the courthouse, the time not having been determined.

Dr. Barker holds university degrees as Doctor of hygiene and physical culture. While William Howard Taft was president of the United States, Dr. Barker spent an hour a day with him, keeping him fit for his work. Then began his lecture work devoted to the young people of the United States and Canada and to their parents.

Since going on the lecture platform he has delivered over 11,000 addresses.

Dr. Barker has been a member of the Rotary club of Grand Rapids, Mich., since October, 1921. He comes to Marion through the courtesy of the Rotary club, as a contribution of community service.

### COMPROMISE REACHED ON PROPOSED ROUTING OF N. C. HIGHWAY NO. 64

A compromise on the proposed re-routing of N. C. Route No. 64 between Bat Cave and Morganton, was announced a few days ago by Frank L. Dunlap, chairman of the Highway and Public Works Commission, in a letter to Ashby Robinson, McDowell county representative. Under the compromise, Dunlap said, the Manteo to Murphy highway will retain its present routing between Bat Cave and Morganton, by way of Marion. The proposed re-routing through Rutherfordton, will be designated as N. C. Route 64-A.