

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF MARION AND McDOWELL COUNTY

ESTABLISHED 1896

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1940

VOL. XLIV—NO. 49

Picnicing And Boat Racing To Be Featured In Celebration At Lake James On Fourth Of July

Four Contests, A Speed Exhibition And Water Stunts Set For Afternoon.

Plans for the Marion and McDowell county celebration of the Fourth of July were completed here this week with an old-fashioned picnic and an afternoon of boat racing announced as the program for the day. The celebration is being sponsored by the Marion Chamber of Commerce.

The picnic will be held at Lake James near Catawba dam where space has been provided to accommodate hundreds of people. Families participating in the picnic will furnish their own food. Soft drinks and drinking water may be obtained on the grounds.

Picnicers have been asked to refrain from strewing the grounds around the lake with papers and picnic remains. The public has been requested to use facilities that have been provided for the disposal of garbage.

The road over Catawba dam, paralleling the lake shore, will be closed to traffic during the boat races in the afternoon and at other times only one-way traffic will be allowed on the stretch. Ample parking space has been provided for all cars.

The boat races are scheduled to get under way at 2:30 p. m. along the stretch of water paralleling the road near Catawba dam. Preceding the races a boat parade in which all water craft will participate will be held.

Scheduled to begin the racing for the afternoon are boats with inboard motors. Two heats of five laps each will be run in this division and the race is open to boats of any type.

The second race will consist of boats with five horsepower outboard motors. No restriction as to boat construction will be enforced. Winners in the first two races will be awarded prizes given by the Marion Theatre.

As a semi-final speed contest for the afternoon a 10 horsepower outboard motor race of two heats of five laps each has been scheduled. There will be no restrictions as to the type of boats used. Winners of the first four places in this race will receive cash awards as follows: First place, \$8; second, \$6; third, \$4; and fourth place, \$2.

Climaxing the racing program will be the 25 horsepower outboard motor race. Participants will cover the course 15 times in the three heats scheduled for the race. First place winner in the event will be awarded a cash prize of \$12. Second, third, and fourth places will be awarded prizes of \$10, \$6 and \$4, respectively. Only run-about boats with at least two seats and weighing at least 500 pounds will be allowed to take part in this race.

As an added attraction to the races a speed exhibition will be given during the afternoon by Claude Jarrett, of Asheville, with a 185 horsepower motor and racing hull. Jarrett promises to better the 70 mile per hour mark on one straight run during the exhibition.

Aquaplaning and water stunts of all forms will be demonstrated during the afternoon by Paul Lerner of Canton, who will, among other things, ride the plane while perched on a step ladder.

Concluding the program for the day will be a free-for-all race in which boats and motors of any type may be entered.

Boaters planning to enter the races during the afternoon have been extended the courtesy of the Marion Lake Club dock and will place their craft in the lake at that point. The public has been requested to leave the dock to the contestants.

Official starter for the races will be Dave Blanton, of Marion. Judges for the speed trials will be Grayson Neal and Hugh F. Beam, both of Marion, and Holman Sigmon, of Morganton.

It is expected that the racing will be completed about 6:00 o'clock in the afternoon. No charge will be made for spectators who will view the races from the highway over Catawba dam.

The July 4th program is attracting wide interest in this section and promises to draw thousands of visitors to Marion from all parts of the state to enjoy the picnicing, boating, racing and swimming at Lake James.

NICHOLS AND HOMEWOOD GET COUNTY OFFICES

J. L. Nichols, of Marion, was appointed Monday by the McDowell County Board of Commissioners as associate judge of the county court. In other action taken by the commissioners S. L. Homewood was re-elected County Farm Agent for a term of two years at his present salary.

Mr. Nichols will fill an office that has long been vacant in the county. He has served as sheriff of McDowell county and is now a United States marshal and justice of the peace. He has long been active in county affairs and is now employed in the tax collecting division of the county government.

The present judge of the county court is Paul J. Story.

Mr. Homewood has served two terms as Farm Agent of McDowell county and is now beginning his fifth year in that capacity.

The county commissioners approved one petition asking for right of way and the construction of a state road leaving highways Nos. 10 and 70, going by J. F. Moody's house and up the branch through D. Wilburn Walker's land. Petitioners stated the way has been used as a public road for 15 years.

Budgets of county administrative units for the year 1940-41 were presented to the commissioners. Action on these proposed outlays will not be taken until later in July.

TWO NEW TEACHERS IN CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

The appointment of two new teachers to the Marion city schools were announced this week by Superintendent Hugh F. Beam. Both will join teaching staffs at the central school.

Miss Alva Padgett, of Bostic, has been appointed to the English department of the high school, succeeding Miss Kathryn Linn who has resigned to take up social welfare work in Chicago. Miss Padgett is a graduate of Appalachian State Teachers College and for five years has been a member of the North Cove school faculty in McDowell county.

Miss Gladys Smith, of Harmony, has been added to the elementary staff at the central school. She is a graduate of Appalachian State Teachers College and has had six years teaching experience. Last year she was employed at the Troutman grade school in Iredell county.

BENEFIT PAYMENTS ARE ISSUED IN McDOWELL

Payments totaling \$5,023 were issued in McDowell county welfare office to the aged, blind and dependent children, during the month of June, it was announced this week.

Receiving old age assistance payments were 317 persons in the county. Checks distributed in this classification totaled \$3,902. Aid to dependent children was given to 54 families, representing 109 children. The total distribution to children was \$962.

Twelve people in the county received aid to the blind payments in the month of June amounting to \$159.

SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL TERM BEGINS MONDAY

Twenty civil cases are listed on the county calendar for the forthcoming McDowell county July term of civil court which is scheduled to begin here next Monday morning with Judge W. H. Bobbitt, of Charlotte, presiding.

Among the cases set for this term of court are four suits against J. F. Harmon and one against C. L. Tate brought by the town of Old Fort.

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C OF C TO OBSERVE BIRTHDAY, TO BECOME COUNTY ORGANIZATION

The first anniversary meeting of the Marion Chamber of Commerce has been scheduled for August 5 with L. P. Dickie, manager of the Southern Division of the United States Chamber of Commerce, of Atlanta, to be the guest speaker, announced Secretary Walter J. Cartier this week.

The August meeting will be a banquet celebration which a large number of old and new Chamber of Commerce members are expected to attend.

Before July 15 officials of the local organization are planning to meet and change the membership requirements to make them more inclusive, enabling any resident of Marion or McDowell county to become members of the Chamber of Commerce.

On July 16 the Chamber will begin a membership drive to be conducted throughout the county for three days. All business and professional firms in the county will be contacted.

According to Mr. Cartier, many assurances have been received in the local Chamber of Commerce office that people throughout the county are interested in joining the organization. In the membership drive it is hoped that the Chamber of Commerce may be made truly representative of all business, professional and commercial interests in the county, he said.

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS PRESENTED TO BOARD

A budget estimate asking for a total of \$248,937.06 for the operation of the county and its schools during the fiscal year 1940-41 was presented before the county commissioners in session here Monday.

Second largest outlay sought in the budget is \$57,684.78 for the general county fund. The sum of \$133,624.94 has been requested for the funding, highway, courthouse and school bonds and interest funds.

Approximately \$8,000 less is being requested by city and county schools this year than last year because school buildings were put in good condition last year. For the year 1940-41 the county schools ask for \$6,613.00 for current expense and \$900 for capital outlay. The city schools ask for \$6,422.92 for current expense and \$4,900.00 for capital outlay.

Other items requested in the budget are \$6,695.00 for the county health fund, \$26,201.42 for the county poor fund, and \$5,895.00 for a special expense fund.

SMALL SUM NEEDED TO REACH RED CROSS GOAL

The Marion chapter of the American Red Cross lacked only \$45.58 yesterday of reaching the goal of \$1,200 set for this community in the drive for relief funds for war refugees in Europe.

The campaign for relief funds in Marion has been under the direction of Mrs. Fred W. Streetman, who has been assisted by other ladies of the town. Mrs. Streetman has urged that people who have not contributed to the cause do so at once to enable the local chapter to reach the \$1,200 goal. She expressed appreciation for the support given the workers locally during the drive for funds and expressed confidence that the goal would be reached.

The original goal of \$600 set for this community was doubled by officials of the Red Cross as relief needs in Europe increased daily. The call for help has been answered by practically all Marion business and professional firms and individuals. Response to the appeal has been favorable in all parts of the United States, officials report.

Contributions may be made locally to Mrs. Streetman or to the Marion Industrial Bank.

POULTRY SPECIALIST TO VISIT IN COUNTY

T. T. Brown, state extension poultry specialist, will be in McDowell county next Wednesday, July 10, announced County Agent S. L. Homewood this week. Mr. Brown will inspect poultry flocks in the county and recommend improvements in growing and production methods were needed.

Population Of City And County Shows Increase

Census Figures Give Gains Of 421 In Marion And 15 Per Cent In County.

The 1940 population of Marion is 2,888, a gain of 421 over the count of 2,467 in 1930, according to Chas. Z. Flack, district U. S. Census supervisor.

The population of the county has increased approximately 15 per cent with 23,401 being counted this year as compared to 20,336 in 1930.

The occupied housing units in Marion number 703 this year and the vacancies 19. Occupied housing units in the county are 5,018 and vacancies total 159.

The number of farms in the county have decreased since 1930, some 1,248 being recorded this year as compared to 1,268 ten years ago. Infants under four months of age in the county now number 189.

Marion township has increased in population considerably during the ten-year period, now having 12,538 people as compared to 10,899 in 1930. All other townships in McDowell increased in population with the exception of Glenwood, which lost 20 people during the ten year period.

The population by townships is as follows:

Township	1940	1930
Brackets	264	261
Crooked Creek	1,223	968
Dysartsville	823	717
Glenwood	659	679
Higgins	574	282
Marion	12,538	10,899
Montford's Cove	745	566
Nebo	1,151	928
North Cove	1,661	1,570
Old Fort	3,763	3,466

STORES TO CLOSE FOR FOURTH, GROCERS TO CLOSE LATER TONIGHT

Marion merchants will observe the Fourth of July as a general holiday and their stores will be closed throughout the day, it has been announced.

Today, July 3, grocery stores in Marion will be open until 7:00 o'clock tonight as a service to city and county residents who are shopping in preparation for the picnic to be held at Lake James tomorrow.

Because Independence Day is a legal holiday the banks will be closed and city, county and other offices will not open.

The postoffice and all its branches will be closed for the day with only special delivery mail and perishable items being delivered. No service windows will be open during the day.

SUMMER SCHOOL IS TO BE CONCLUDED FRIDAY

The summer school session at the Marion high school ends Friday, July 5, announced High F. Beam, city superintendent of schools, this week.

During the term 17 pupils have been enrolled in the summer session. Most of these have been removing deficiencies. Several have been taking work to prepare for college entrance.

William D. Tuttle, commercial teacher in the high school, has been in charge of the summer school. The classes have been conducted six days a week in the high school building.

JOE G. KING GRADUATES FROM ANTIOCH COLLEGE

Joe G. King, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. King of Zellwood, Florida, and husband of Mrs. Thelma King of Marion, was one of the 81 young men and women graduating from Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio, in commencement exercises on Saturday, June 29. Mr. King received a B. S. degree in chemistry.

He has worked in the Kimberly-Clark laboratories in Niagara Falls, N. Y., and has done research in air conditioning and chemical problems for the Gray Printing Company of Fostoria, Ohio. He plans to continue work with this company this summer and will begin his work toward a Ph. D. at the University of North Carolina next fall.

"OLD-TIMERS" REUNION TO BE HERE AUGUST 16

The sixth annual meeting of the "Old-Timers" Memorial reunion of the Asheville Division of the Southern Railway will be held in the Marion high school auditorium on Friday, August 16. This meeting will also celebrate the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the first passenger train reaching Marion in August, 1870.

Special invitations have been extended to widows of deceased members of the reunion and to all officers and employees who have worked on the Asheville Division for 30 years or more. Employees of other divisions of the Southern Railway and others who have worked in this division at any time during the past 30 years have been invited. Altogether more than 700 invitations have been sent out.

Officials of the Southern have arranged to furnish a special train for the convenience of their employees and their families attending the reunion. The train will make all regular stops and will leave Asheville at 8 a. m., leaving Marion on the return trip at 5 p. m.

Among the interesting persons to be present at the reunion is the oldest living conductor, who ran a train in this division in 1869, as well as the oldest living superintendent and train master. Attending also will be 12 of the living agents who have worked in Marion during the past 70 years.

The reunion will be called to order at 10:00 a. m. on the morning of August 16. A group picture will be taken, officers will be elected and the next meeting place will be chosen. Members of the reunion will be served lunch by a committee of Marion ladies.

DEFENSE TAXES BECAME EFFECTIVE HERE MONDAY

McDowell county residents had their first taste of the new defense taxes Monday as higher levies went into effect on future manufactures of a score of products, and "floor taxes," affecting the retail price, became effective on cigarettes, beer and theatre tickets.

The floor taxes, applied to stocks already on hand, are 1-2 a cent a package on cigarettes, 75 cents a gallon on liquor, and \$1 a barrel on beer.

All theatre tickets became taxable at the rate of one cent for each 10 cents or fraction thereof for admissions in excess of 20 cents. As a result, movie goers who have paid no tax when attending theatres which charged only 10 to 40 cents admission, began paying higher prices for tickets Monday.

Levies on other products may not effect the consumer until existing stocks are sold.

Congress levied these taxes so that merchants who bought up supplies in anticipation of the increase would have to pay just the same. The Treasury expects to collect \$4,800,000 from the floor tax on cigarettes and \$19,600,000 from that on liquor and beer.

Here is the increase on various newly-produced products, and services:

Toilet preparations, from 10 to 11 per cent; automobiles, 3 to 3 1-2 per cent; radios, 5 to 5 1-2 per cent; mechanical refrigerators, 5 to 5 1-2 per cent; matches, 5 cents to 5 1-2 cents a thousand; electrical energy, 3 to 3 1-2 per cent; gasoline, 1 to 1 1-2 cents a gallon; lubricating oil, 4 to 4 1-2 cents a gallon; playing cards, 10 to 11 cents a pack; club dues and initiation fees, 10 to 11 per cent.

Increases on liquor, beer and cigarettes are the same as the floor tax and will bring the taxes on these products to \$3 a gallon, \$6 a barrel and 6 1-2 cents a package respectively.

J. Q. GILKEY'S CONDITION IS REPORTED IMPROVED

The condition of J. Q. Gilkey of Marion, who has been confined to the Marion General Hospital for the past few days, was reported a little improved yesterday.

Mr. Gilkey became ill while in New York on business in connection with his work on the World's Fair committee of North Carolina. He is vice-chairman of the State Board of Conservation and Development and has long been prominent in affairs of McDowell county and the state.

St. Matthew's Is To Celebrate Five Years Of Progress

Anniversary Of Establishment Of Church To Be Observed In Marion July 14.

The first Lutheran services conducted in Marion were held by Rev. S. Keisler of Catawba county about 35 years ago in the Methodist church. From this beginning the Lutheran church has grown steadily and is making plans to celebrate the fifth anniversary, July 14, of the establishment of St. Matthew's church in this community.

The early attempt to hold Lutheran services in the Methodist church was found unsatisfactory and discontinued. About 15 years ago another attempt to establish Lutheranism here was made by Rev. W. D. Peters, pastor of the First Lutheran church in Asheville, who conducted occasional services in private homes. Later Rev. L. F. Frerking, while serving in the Rutherfordton field, made several trips to Marion in the interest of the church. He was removed to Charlotte and was succeeded in the Rutherfordton field by Rev. Paul A. Boriack.

Achieving no encouraging results in his new place, Rev. Boriack in 1931 and 1932 investigated the possibilities of Marion as a field for Lutheran work. In 1932 services were conducted by Marion Lutherans in the local Episcopal church but discontinued because of an Episcopal canon prohibiting the use of the church by other denominations.

Application was made to the county board of commissioners, who consented to rent the courthouse auditorium for Lutheran services. Meetings were held there every Sunday for some time.

On April 11, 1932, the leaders of the group came together at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. L. Miller and with Rev. G. E. Long, then visitor of the Southeast, Rev. J. L. Summers, of Hickory, and Rev. H. F. Meyer, of Asheville, present, organized St. Matthew's Lutheran congregation in Marion. Rev. Boriack was called as minister and the group made application to the church extension fund for assistance in the erection of a chapel.

For three years, the ardent pleas of the group for financial aid were answered with "no funds" by the church board. Services in the courthouse, being constantly interrupted, (Continued on last page)

N. C. STATE REVENUES STRIKE ALL-TIME RECORD

Raleigh, June 29.—North Carolina's most prosperous tax year, which will end at midnight tomorrow, yielded an all-time record of \$76,004,841.68 in state revenue—an average of about \$21.70 for every man, woman and child in the state.

The fiscal year revenue report, released today by Acting Revenue Commissioner Lee O. Gregory, showed that the state had collected \$6,428,252.18 more than in any previous year in its history. The former record was \$69,575,589.50 in 1937-1938.

This year's total was \$7,059,709.11 ahead of the \$68,946,132.57 collected in 1938-1939.

New high marks were set by receipts from gasoline sales, income, license and franchise taxes, and from the sale of automobile license plates. Since there has been little change in the state's basic tax structure for the last four years, the increases were attributed solely to better business conditions, by revenue department officials.

General fund receipts were \$40,147,051.01, a gain of \$4,811,616.54 over last year. The previous record was \$37,627,290.46 in 1937-38.

Highway fund receipts were \$35,847,790.67, a gain of \$2,247,092.57 over the previous record set last year.

The budget, as drawn up by the last legislature, provided for the diversion, if needed, of \$2,500,000 from the highway fund to the general fund. Because of unusually large general fund receipts, however, highway diversion was not necessary.