

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

ESTABLISHED 1896

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1940

VOL. XLV—NO. 2

## PREPARATION FOR NEW INDUSTRIES IS URGED HERE

**Chamber Of Commerce Official, Speaker At Annual Banquet Held In Marion:**

American industry is preparing for its third phase of development, decentralization, and communities that are ready for it will reap the harvest of new industries, stated L. P. Dickie, manager of the Southeastern Division of the United States Chamber of Commerce, in an address here Monday night.

Mr. Dickie was guest speaker at the annual anniversary banquet-meeting of the Marion Chamber of Commerce.

The age of centralization and mergers in industry is past, he said, manufacturers finding they can only operate their business successfully in communities which offer happiness and contentment to their employees. The job of this community and all others is to make the town attractive to the working man, he said.

Chambers of commerce are now nothing but grown up "Whittlers' clubs", resembling the little group of town leaders which gathered in the olden day to "whittle" and discuss community problems and needs. The job of the chamber of commerce is the same today—to plan the building of the city to best serve the needs and desires of the people, he stated.

Among the programs that have been or should be carried through for community betterment by chambers of commerce he listed the proper use of advantages the community has, such as the Blue Ridge Parkway offers Marion; the building of cooperation and community spirit among business and professional men; the conducting of institutes where store clerks are taught salesmanship; the conducting of surveys to find why people trade where they do; the establishment of business relations groups to inform the public what business is and what it stands for; the conducting of public forums where members of the community may discuss local and national problems; and the expansion of public interest in the affairs of government, that the sentiment of the community may be passed on to the law makers.

Business, which gave the people the comforts they enjoy today, has been condemned, he said. It must be helped and saved, and such organizations as chambers of commerce are able to put it back in its proper place. This work requires time, work and money and the full cooperation of every community, he concluded.

Mr. Dickie was introduced by Walter J. Cartier, secretary of the local Chamber of Commerce. Mr. (Continued on last page)

## M'DOWELL HAD ONLY 4 HIGHWAY ACCIDENTS IN FIRST SIX MONTHS

Four of the 3,709 highway accidents in North Carolina during the first six months of 1940 occurred in McDowell county, according to a six-months summary just released by the North Carolina Highway Safety Division.

McDowell county's four accidents were classified as follows: two fatal, one non-fatal, and one involving property damage only.

For the state as a whole, there were 317 fatal accidents, 1,418 non-fatal and 1,974 property damage accidents the first six months of this year.

Eighteen North Carolina counties had clean slates the first half of this year with respect to traffic fatalities. Forsyth led the state in the total number of accidents reported, with 348, and Guilford led in the number of fatal accidents with 20.

Two hundred and seventeen of the 317 fatal accidents occurred on the roads in rural areas, 13 in towns of less than 500 population, 8 in towns from 500 to 1,000 population, 19 in towns from 1,000 to 5,000 population, ten in cities from 5,000 to 10,000 population, 16 in cities from 10,000 to 25,000 population, four in cities from 25,000 to 50,000 population and 30 in cities from 50,000 to 100,000.

## PRINCIPALS MAKE PLANS FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR

High school principals of McDowell met in the office of County Superintendent N. F. Steppe here last Saturday and discussed plans for the coming year. Details concerning the organization and administration of the county schools were outlined and general plans for school improvement were formulated.

According to Mr. Steppe, major emphasis at the meeting was laid on the need for better organization and supervision of school work in order that schools may function as efficiently as possible. Education must play a vital part in the national defense program through training in worthy citizenship in a democratic society. It is the purpose of the schools to best meet the needs of the individual and of the state of which he is a part, the principals decided.

The registration of high school students will be held on the opening day of school, Thursday, August 29, instead of an earlier date as in previous years, it was decided.

The flat rental fee for high school text books in McDowell is \$2.40 for the year, payable at registration. This entire amount will be collected at one time instead of half at the beginning of the year and half at the middle of the term, as was done last year. All necessary textbooks will be furnished each student upon payment of this fee, said Mr. Steppe in commenting on the meeting.

"All textbooks in grades one through seven will be furnished free of charge. However, supplementary readers are not included in the list of free books furnished by the state and a fee of 50 cents per child will be charged for these books. This money is used to buy sets of supplementary readers which are the property of the county and are used by county schools," said Mr. Steppe.

"All high school students are asked to bring their rental fee of \$2.40, and all elementary students their supplementary reader fee of 50 cents the first day of school in order to save time in issuing books and beginning school work," he said.

The opening of county schools has been set for August 29. Teachers from all the county schools will have their first meeting at the Pleasant Gardens school on Wednesday, August 28, at 10 a. m.

## Project For Work On Local School Awaits Approval

The application for a \$100,000 WPA grant for repairing and enlarging the Marion high school is now in the offices of the WPA in Washington after having been approved in Raleigh, Hugh F. Beam, superintendent of city schools, announced Monday.

The insurance company has agreed to allow a claim for \$32,375 in damages, Mr. Beam said, but the repair work will not be started until the WPA grant is approved.

After the fire last winter, a number of classes were held in near-by churches, and some similar emergency arrangement may have to be made this fall until the repairs are completed.

Plans for the addition, as prepared by Lindsey Gudger, Asheville architect, call for four new class rooms, a music room, and a gymnasium with room to seat 600 spectators around the playing court.

The addition will be of brick construction in keeping with the design of the present three-story building, which was erected in 1923.

## BRAKEMAN HURT IN FALL FROM BOX CAR

Harry Hunter, of Nebo, a railway brakeman, was confined to the Marion General Hospital for examination Monday night after falling from a box car being shifted in the Drexel Furniture factory siding.

Dr. Guy S. Kirby said that Hunter was badly bruised and scratched and is in a serious condition, having suffered internal injuries, including three broken ribs and injuries in his stomach. Hunter complained of severe pains in the abdomen after the accident and is still confined at the hospital.

The accident occurred late Monday afternoon.

## BOARD VOTES TO REQUEST SPECIAL TERM OF COURT

**Points To Accumulation Of Cases; Jurors For Regular Term Are Drawn.**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners, in session here Monday, unanimously passed a resolution to request the Governor of North Carolina to call a special term of Superior court in McDowell county at some time in September to finish up "an accumulation of criminal and civil actions."

A mixed criminal and civil term of two weeks has already been set to begin the first Monday in September. The commissioners will ask for a special term to begin on adjournment of the two weeks term. If the special term cannot be arranged at that time the "request shall extend to such subsequent date when a special term can be provided."

Jurors who were drawn for the regular September term of Superior court is as follows:

First week: J. Hoke Simmons, Horace Norton, Carlyle Nesbitt, W. J. Porter, Lester Waters, J. A. Bartlett, Grover Brown, Otis D. Greene, J. H. Boyd, A. C. Thomas, Mack Walker, Pink Williams, C. C. Fisher, W. A. McCall, J. Harris Austin, C. A. McCall, G. N. Carter, Frank Goldsmith, D. T. Rhinehardt, Dewey C. Brown, Claud Brown, Otis Biddix, R. W. Silver, W. G. Marlowe, W. W. Neal, Jr., Paul M. Allison, D. A. Grayson, G. A. Lavender, W. D. Greenlee, W. Lonnie Brown, Grover C. Greene, W. B. Parker, R. Henry McCall, W. C. Howell, W. H. Bradley, Harvey Moore, Theodore Browning, Landis Laughridge, E. K. Trent, Vernell Wilson, Peeler Pyatt, V. M. Settlemyre, Eugene Dobson, Fred L. Parker, J. W. Blalock, Clifford Ross, F. L. Simmons, J. A. Devenny.

Second week: J. C. Hensley, G. F. Goforth, Joe G. Pratt, Jr., Pete Roland, G. A. Lackey, A. C. Hewitt, Clyde R. Miller, Chas. T. Steppe, J. H. Kaylor, James M. Presnell, O. S. Franklin, C. R. Burgin, J. H. Gilliland, Geo. W. Carver, H. S. Brown, J. L. Hensley, A. A. Jamison, Emory H. Terry, Clyde Henline, W. Gordon Wilson, Sandy N. Allison, Ben Flowers, G. B. Lipe, Dolph H. Long, Grayson Snipes, Ray Murray, J. D. Mashburn, W. S. Shiflet, Garland W. Kaylor, A. C. Bartlett.

## PAUL O. NAFE TAKES OVER M'DOWELL NEWS

Sale of the McDowell News, weekly newspaper published here, to Paul O. Nafe, former feature editor of the Christian Science Monitor, was announced Monday by F. B. Morgan, who has been editing and publishing The News since 1936.

Mr. Nafe has taken charge of the paper and plans to get out his first issue today.

Mr. Nafe started as a newsboy in Texas, then was sports editor of the El Paso Herald until 1922, when he went to Boston to become feature editor of The Monitor. He continued as feature editor of The Monitor until he found in Marion the opportunity to realize an ambition to edit and publish a paper of his own.

He is a member of the American Legion, the Rotary club, and is a 32nd degree Mason and Shriner. During the World War, he was commanding officer of the 85th squadron of the U. S. air service.

Mr. Morgan, who came here from Kinston in 1936, said he and his wife would remain in Marion for about a month before going to Knoxville, Tenn., to take an executive position there.

Mrs. Nafe, now in Boston, hopes to join her husband here in the near future.

## TO BUILD HOUSE HERE

Work on a new dwelling house on Claremont Avenue in Marion will begin in the next day or two, it was announced this week. The house will be the property of E. W. Parker, of Marion, and will be an eight-room stone veneer structure.

Contractor for the residence is J. F. Glenn.

## HEARING BEGUN IN MARION ON DAMAGE ACTION

**Plaintiffs Allege Approximately \$200,000 Lost By Action Of State Agency.**

A preliminary hearing in a case in which the plaintiffs allege damages of approximately \$200,000 has been done to their property was begun here Tuesday before a jury of view.

Plaintiffs in the case are John Yancey and J. W. Winborne, executor and trustee of the W. W. Guy estate. The defendant is the North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission.

The case grew out of the alleged appropriation of land belonging to Yancey and the Guy estate for the building of a part of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The land in question is in the northern part of McDowell county, adjoining Mitchell county.

Plaintiffs in the action charge that the State Highway Commission appropriated 206.76 acres of land containing approximately 6,825 "valuable apple trees" for the Parkway. They charge that adjoining areas and acreage was also damaged and that total damage amounted to \$200,000 "or some other large sum" with interest since the date of appropriation.

The preliminary hearing is being held before the jury of view which will determine the damage done to the property of the plaintiffs. The jury is composed of Zeno Martin, W. S. Shiflet and J. R. Jimison, who were appointed to the jury by the clerk of the Superior court.

Attorneys for Yancey and the Guy estate are J. H. B. Ehringhaus and R. W. Proctor. Attorneys for the State Highway Commission are Ernest Gardner and D. F. Giles.

## PLANS BEING MADE FOR RACES AT LAKE JAMES

Boat races at Lake James on the Sunday before Labor Day are being planned here by a group of boat owners interested in forming a McDowell county boat club.

Arrangement for the races are under the direction of five Marion men who are working with Walter J. Cartier, secretary of the Marion Chamber of Commerce. The committee is composed of Jack Ballew, Dave Blanton, Alford Morgan, Will Erwin and Jack James.

The committee will meet next Wednesday night, August 14, at 7:30 o'clock in the Community building to make further plans for the races and the organization of the club.

According to Mr. Cartier, boating enthusiasts of this section are being contacted in efforts to form the McDowell boat club. Such an organization would enable members to qualify to participate in official boat races and to promote races with many entries under the rules of national boating associations on Lake James.

## WELFARE OFFICE GIVES OUT \$4,256 IN CHECKS

A total of \$4,256 was distributed from the McDowell welfare office for old age, dependent children and aid to the blind assistance during the month of July, announced Mrs. G. W. Kirkpatrick, county welfare officer, this week.

A total of 318 persons in the county received old age assistance payments amounting to \$3,176. Aid to dependent children checks were distributed to 54 families representing 103 children. These checks totaled \$921. Twelve blind people in the county received aid by checks amounting to \$159.

## DISTRICT MEETING OF LODGE IN OLD FORT

A meeting of the 44th Masonic district of the Mystic Tie Lodge 237 A. F. and A. M. will be held in the Old Fort high school building Tuesday night, August 13, at 8 o'clock.

Motion pictures in colors will be shown of the Oxford Orphanage and the Eastern Star home. The meeting is open to the public and all lodge members are urged to attend.

## MARION MAN IS KILLED IN AUTOMOBILE CRASH

Thomas Robert Saunders, 28, Marion house painter, was instantly killed about 8:30 o'clock last Saturday night when the car he was driving crashed into a bank about two miles east of here on Highway No. 70.

Mr. Saunders apparently lost control of the car on a sharp curve in the highway. The car crashed into a steep bank on the side of the road and overturned. He was said to have been driving alone except for a dog that was uninjured in the wreck.

Mr. Saunders was brought to the Marion General Hospital in a private car, but died before reaching it. He suffered a broken neck and other internal and external injuries. He was said to have been on his way back to Marion after a short trip when the accident occurred.

Funeral services were conducted in Marion at the home of his mother, Mrs. Florence Saunders, at 11 o'clock Monday morning. Officiating was Dr. B. F. Bray, assisted by Rev. W. A. Jenkins. Burial was in the Rutherfordford cemetery.

He is survived by his mother and two sisters, Miss Mary Saunders, of Lenoir, and Miss Jane Saunders, of the home.

Pallbearers were: Wayne Adkins, Roy Rabb, Bud Hennessee, J. M. Lancaster Con Poteat and Joe Blalock.

Flower girls were: Josephine Craig, Frances Barnes, Pete Edwards, Ruth Cooper, Mary Epley, Louise Poteat, Maxine Finley, Mrs. Wayne Suttles, Mrs. Joe Blalock, Mrs. John Harper, and Mrs. Loretta Allen.

## County Horse And Cattle Show Is Set For October 4th

The annual McDowell county horse and cattle show will be held Oct. 4 on a lot off the Rutherford road which was recently purchased by a group of interested persons in Marion and which may be turned into a permanent fair grounds, it was announced this week.

The committee directing the plans for the show is composed of S. J. Westmoreland, chairman, S. L. Homewood, J. C. Rabb, J. R. Jameson, W. C. McIver and Frank Goforth.

According to Mr. Westmoreland, the group of local men interested in the show have purchased the old Karpis property off the Rutherford Road near Marion. Work will be done on the grounds, a track will be fenced in and other arrangements will be made to provide ample facilities for the display of McDowell county livestock.

Plans are being made to make the horse and cattle show an annual affair in the form of a county fair, where farmers of the county will each year display their best farm products and stock.

The show this year is being given much support by the Marion Kiwanis club. Prizes will be awarded to farmers and tradespeople displaying the best cattle and horses in the show and entertainment for all county residents is being planned.

## ALDERMEN PASS RULING ON SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Marion property owners having houses located within 300 feet of sewer lines and not equipped with sewage disposal facilities will be required to install connections with the disposal line, according to a ruling passed Tuesday by the town Board of Aldermen.

The ruling was passed by the Aldermen to eliminate unsanitary conditions surrounding houses in some sections of Marion.

The Board considered an application for a license to operate a pool room in Marion and deferred action on the matter until the next meeting. A petition endorsing the establishment of the pool room here will be considered.

Members of the Marion city school Board will be furnished water free by the town, the aldermen decided. The move was taken to give the school board members some remuneration for their services.

The Board passed a resolution providing for the cleaning up of the grounds of Oak Grove cemetery.

## RECORD CROWD ATTENDS PICNIC OF FEDERATION

**Talks, Singing Contests And Games Feature Gathering At Old Fort.**

"The only way to oppose Hitler's diabolical purpose is to develop a counteracting Christian purpose in this country," declared the Rev. Dumont Clarke, head of the religious department of the Farmers Federation, in an address before the crowd of 1200 which attended the annual McDowell County picnic at the high school in Old Fort Wednesday.

One of the best ways in which to develop this purpose in Western North Carolina, Mr. Clarke said, is to join in the work of the Lord's Acre Plan, which assists 350 rural churches in this part of the state.

Urging his audience to "build McDowell county with the Farmers Federation," James G. K. McClure, president, stressed the fact that the national wealth originates on the farm.

Other speakers on the all-day program included Mrs. D. T. Roughton, supervisor of the Old Fort National Youth Administration Project; S. C. Clapp, head of the Federation's seed department; and Grady Walker, manager of the Marion Warehouse.

Among the many performers who entertained the large crowd were the Farmers Federation String Band, the Hickory Nut Gap Trio of singers; and an Old Fort trio composed of Herman Creaseman, Vernon Fortune and Clarence Lavender. Hampton Bradley, the Columbia radio artist, sang several songs; and Misses Inez Webb and Eunice Ayers were a popular duet team. R. A. Neal and his young son played duets on banjo and ukulele; while Mr. Millwood, the ventriloquist, brought his wooden boy Willy. Joe Frisbee gave several individual variations on popular songs.

First place in the singing convention was won by the NYA Choir, led by Mrs. D. T. Roughton; while the Montford Cove Choir, with Arch Wilkerson directing, took second prize. In the quartet competition, the Old Fort Quartet received the first award, and second place went to the Wilkerson Quartet.

With a load of 63 passengers, John Reel of Haw Branch won the prize for the largest truckload attending the picnic. E. W. S. Cobb was judged to have the baldest head. The prize for the most recently married couple went to Mr. and Mrs. Hampton Bradley; while Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Houk, wed 52 years ago, took the award for the oldest married couple. The family of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Haynes, with eight children, was declared to be the largest present.

Winners in the relay races were as follows: Junior boys, Donald Anderson, Eston Morris, Ernest Widenhouse, and Eugene Lytle; junior girls, Clyta Ledbetter, Leota and Eulalia Marlow, and Emma Henson; boys 10-16, Ernie Marlowe, Calvin Ledbetter, Troy Moore, and Edward Reel; girls 10 to 16, Reva Burkhard, Olean Crisp, Lorene Grindstaff, and Jean Wilson; older boys, Roy and Alvin Parker, Clarence Lavender, and Max Nesbitt; older girls, Jeanette Haynes, Naomi Nichols, Virginia Ledbetter, and Joyce Wilkerson; ladies, Mrs. Odell Parker, Mrs. J. C. Parker, Mrs. Etta Morgan, Mrs. P. H. Ledbetter, and Mrs. B. A. Parker.

The winning tug-o-war team, from Montford Cove, was composed of Worth and Wayne Burgess, James Poteat, J. D. Wilkerson, J. L. Ledbetter, C. F. Marlowe, and Ralph Haynes.

## GROUP TO CARRY C OF C DRIVE TO OLD FORT

A group of Marion members of the McDowell Chamber of Commerce will go to Old Fort this week-end in connection with the drive for new members now being made by the Chamber, Secretary Walter J. Cartier has announced.

Before the drive is completed new members will be sought in all parts of the county. The drive has been conducted in Marion during the past week.