

COUNTY BOARD ADOPTS BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR

**Tax Rate Is Set At \$1.16, Same
As Last Year, With Budget
Of \$259,067.69.**

The tax rate for McDowell county was set at \$1.16 on the hundred dollars valuation by the county commissioners in special session here yesterday. The rate remaining the same as that of last year, although there are now some changes in fund requirements for the 1940-41 levy.

A budget of \$259,067.69 for operation of the county government for the year was adopted. This sum is \$11,422.37 higher than the budget adopted last year, chiefly because of the expense of building the addition to the county jail.

Taxable property in the county was this year estimated at \$16,700,000.

Items in the budget are listed as follows: General county fund, \$64,233.52; special expense, \$6,189.75; county health, \$5,874.75; county poor fund, \$27,473.42; funding debt service, \$4,772.00; court house debt service, \$12,244.38; highway debt service, \$72,896.98; county school debt service, \$46,546.97; county school training expense and capital outlay, \$7,513.00; Marion city current expense and capital outlay, \$11,322.92.

The itemized tax rate for the fiscal year is as follows: General county fund, 15c; health fund, 4c; poor fund 14c; special expense, 3c; Marion city capital outlay, 2c; school debt service fund, 26c; highway debt service fund, 41c; funding debt service, 4c; court house debt service, 7c.

CAMP ENDS SEASON AS FLOOD THREATENS AREA

Black Bear camp, located on the shores of Lake James about 10 miles from Marion, officially closed its summer season Thursday of last week. The 20 boys and 10 officials at the camp moved into Marion Wednesday of last week after rising waters of Lake James had threatened to damage the grounds and buildings. The season was ended one day ahead of schedule because of conditions brought about by flood waters at the camp.

The farewell banquet of campers and officials was held here in the James Hotel Wednesday night of last week. Last Thursday morning the 20 boys from Black Bear returned to their homes throughout the state. Officials of the camp remained at Black Bear all this week and are expected to leave today or tomorrow.

According to camp officials, flood waters at the camp Tuesday and Wednesday of last week swept away two small shacks at Black Bear, covered part of the athletic field and broke a small dam on the camp property. No serious damage was done, it was said. In coming to Marion from the camp, the boys and officials forded four streams and washouts and at different stages of the trip used a truck and a horse and wagon. Officials at the camp this year were Coach G. F. Laird, director; W. M. McCachran and Terry Sanford, associate directors; Mrs. G. F. Laird, dietician, J. B. Crawford, camp doctor; Mrs. C. A. Chapman, office manager; and Dr. Louis B. Schenck, chaplain.

The camp season opened June 21 and closed August 15.

DR. CRAWFORD RETURNS FROM CAMP BEAUREGARD

Dr. Dean Crawford returned Saturday from Louisiana and Texas where he has been stationed with the Third Army Maneuver for the past fourteen days. This consists of the National Guard units of the 4th Corps area, including North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas, in connection with the 8th Corps area which is made up of New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma and Colorado. Troops from these two corps participated in these maneuvers which will close about August 25. Dr. Crawford was stationed at Camp Beauregard.

CITY SCHOOLS OF MARION TO BEGIN CLASSES SEPT. 12

**Pupils To Assemble In Auditoriums; Teachers To Have
First Meeting September 11.**

Schools of the Marion city unit will open their doors for the fall term on September 12 at 9 o'clock, announced Hugh F. Beam, city school superintendent, this week.

On the morning of September 12, pupils in the city unit will meet in the auditoriums of their respective schools to receive instructions on classes and school regulations. At the central school, complete arrangements for holding several classes in the Presbyterian church, the Methodist hut and other places will be announced. These arrangements have been made necessary because repairs have not been begun on the fire-damaged west wing of the school building.

Band practice at the central school was begun on August 15, under the direction of Bernard Hirsch. Rehearsals are being held every morning in the auditorium and about 40 pupils are attending. Mr. Hirsch has announced that prospects for the continuance of the high standing of the band are favorable, but that 10 or 15 new musicians are needed to fill vacancies caused by last year's graduation. Parents interested in having their children in the band have been requested to see Mr. Hirsch or notify the high school office.

Fall football practice at the central school is scheduled to begin September 2. Coach Art Ditt will return to Marion on August 29 and begin plans for the organization of the school athletic department. Prospects for a "successful" football season are said to be present at the school.

The first teachers meeting of the year will be held in the central school auditorium on the morning of September 11 at 10 o'clock. All teachers in the city unit will be present.

METHODIST CHURCH AT NEBO TO BE DEDICATED

Rev. J. C. Cornett, district superintendent of the Methodist church, will preach and dedicate the Nebo Methodist church next Sunday, August 25. The sermon or services will begin at 11 o'clock a. m.

Construction of the Nebo church was begun in 1927. The building is a stone structure and cost approximately \$15,000. The first pastor serving in the new church was Rev. H. E. Stimson.

Rev. H. C. Freeman, the present pastor at Nebo, will assist in the dedicatory services. Many former pastors of the church are expected to be present.

SINGING CONVENTION WILL BE HELD SEPT. 1ST

The annual McDowell county singing convention will be held at the high school auditorium in Marion, August 31st through September 1st. The first session will be held on Saturday evening and the program will continue through Sunday, with both morning and afternoon sessions. Singers for McDowell and adjoining counties are expected to take part on the program and a large crowd is expected.

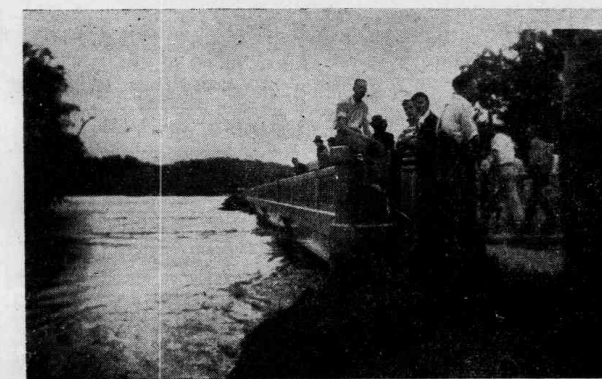
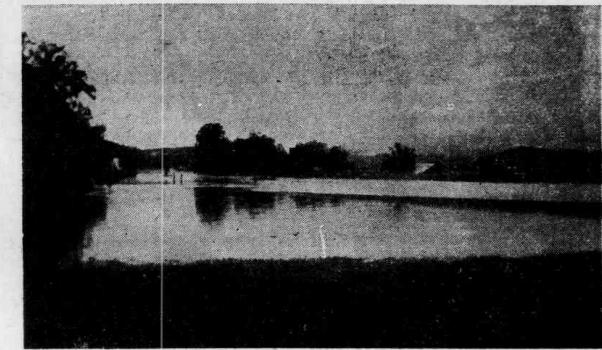
RED CROSS TO INSPECT COUNTY RELIEF NEEDS

Miss Bell Bremmer, case worker from the national headquarters of the American Red Cross, arrived in Marion yesterday to investigate relief needs in the North Cove section of McDowell county.

W. I. Jones, official of the Red Cross, made a brief investigation of relief needs in the county this week and after conferring with Mayor Zeno Martin, chairman of the local chapter of the Red Cross, recommended that a case worker be sent into this territory.

Miss Bremmer will be accompanied throughout the county by Miss Mary Yancey, case worker for the county welfare office.

Catawba On Rampage Near Marion



The Catawba River overflowed its banks near Marion last week, covering most highways and threatening many bridges in this section. The swollen Catawba, in the upper photo, completely covered the farm of Charlie McMahan, at the forks of Highways 70 and 221 about two miles north of Marion. Highway 70, between the bank at the left and the clump of trees in the center, is covered with water. The McMahan home, in the clump of trees, is submerged to the second floor. Only the roof of the barn, to the right, is above water.

In the lower photo, flood waters swirl beneath a bridge on Highway 221, just beyond the forks of Nos. 70 and 221 about two miles north of Marion. The bridge withstood the force of the waters, but many washouts occurred farther down the highway.—Photo by J. M. Lancaster, Marion.

Highlights Of The Flood Damages In McDowell

Forest Service roads in McDowell were damaged to the extent of approximately \$60,000 by last week's flood waters, according to an estimate made by District Ranger Jerry Griswold. In the section near the home of George Carver on Newberry Creek about 200 yards of continuous stretch of road was washed out and a total of about 300 yards of roadway was ruined in that vicinity, said Mr. Griswold. At the head of Sugar Cove creek, landslides blocked or carried away large sections of the forest road, he said.

A continuous two-mile stretch of railroad track was destroyed in the Lost Cove section near Poplar. A total of some three miles of track was reported destroyed. Train No. 38 of the C. C. and O. made its first run south to Spartanburg Monday of this week. No. 37, northbound, was operated yesterday. The road had been closed for about a week.

Ralph Goodman, rural mail carrier for the Marion Postoffice, made his first trip into the North Cove section Friday of last week. Because of blocked roads he was forced to walk approximately 18 miles to deliver the mail. Last Saturday he was assisted by a boy on a bicycle.

All crops on the D. C. Bates farm in the North Cove section were reported completely destroyed. The Clay Conley and Marion Good farms in that area were reported badly damaged. Practically all crops on the T. B. Conley farm were said to have been ruined.

Two lakes stocked with fish at the State Fish Hatchery broke over dams Tuesday of last week.

Flood waters swept away the store of Guy Lonon in the Ashford section leaving only a filling station sign. The loss was estimated at \$4,000.00. Only the cash register in the store was saved.

Highway No. 221 north to Linville Falls has been closed all this week, workmen and highway men being employed in building roads

around washed out sections of the highway. The roadway was completely washed away in five places between Sevier and Ashford. Tree trunks and debris are scattered all along the road and in many places huge hunks of pavement have been washed out of the highway.

The steel bridge spanning Armstrong Creek at Sevier was washed away by the flood waters and may now be seen about 100 yards down the creek from where it stood. Sections of the roadway from Highway 221 to Sevier have been damaged so that only one-way traffic is possible in many places.

Jess Hollifield, age 94, was injured and was unconscious for two days after being pulled from a landslide which crushed his home, located about 14 miles north of Marion on the Little Switzerland road, Tuesday afternoon of last week. According to information received here, Mr. Hollifield was in his home when the landslide swept down. The structure crashed down over him and pinned him by his arm. He was pulled from the wreckage by his son, Bulow Hollifield.

The house and all furniture in it was destroyed. Mr. Hollifield suffered a severe shock but was not seriously injured. He was treated by a doctor from Little Switzerland.

M. L. Good, lumber dealer and owner of the Sarah Good Hosiery Mill at Sevier, estimated that flood damages to his property amounted to approximately \$50,000. High waters last week swept away his office at the mill and completely covered the first floor of the Sarah Good plant.

The regular schedules of all Southern Railway trains running through Marion was resumed at about midnight Monday, after workmen had labored for about a week replacing track washouts between Morganton and Hickory. Until Monday night, no Southern trains ran farther east than Morganton, where they turned for the return trip to Asheville.

ESTIMATES GIVEN OF FUNDS NEEDED ON ROAD REPAIRS

**Highway Engineer Sees Need
For \$241,800 For Work In
Four Counties.**

A total of \$241,800 is being sought from the State Highway department for repairing flood damaged roads and bridges in the counties of McDowell, Burke, Polk and Rutherford, according to information received from the local highway office this week.

J. A. Poteat, district engineer of the State Highway department has estimated that in McDowell county \$3,600 will be needed for repairing highway bridges, \$9,000 for 19 county bridges damaged, \$49,875 for repairing state roads in the county and \$32,000 for putting county roads in shape.

All forces of the highway department in the county are now being concentrated on getting the through roads in proper condition. Most work is now being done on highways 221, 104 and 26.

B. A. Waldenmaier, acting district manager of this district of the WPA, who is now working out of Marion, stated this week that the WPA is arranging to provide \$34,000 for the employment of labor in McDowell. WPA labor is now being used on farm-to-market roads around Nebo and Old Fort and on the Peppers Creek road to Altapass and Spruce Pine, he said. Fifty-six men were put to work this week by the WPA in McDowell and there is now a total of 46 working on streets and 210 on rural roads, he said. The WPA will be in charge of a project for the improvement of Highway 70 between Marion and Old Fort and will take over other work in the county as designated by the State Highway department, he stated.

According to Mr. Waldenmaier, the WPA will have enough projects in McDowell to employ all men that may be certified by the county welfare office.

MARION SCHOOL PROJECT GETS APPROVAL OF WPA

The application for a \$100,000 WPA grant for repairing the Marion high school and for the construction of a classroom and gymnasium building on the school grounds has been approved by Washington WPA officials and has been presented to the President for final approval, according to a communication received this week by Hugh F. Beam, city school superintendent, from Representative Zeb Weaver.

Mr. Weaver's telegram read as follows: "Re your interest project 50120 Marion school project. This project was approved by WPA officials on August 17th and is before the President for final approval. Will wire you immediately upon information as to presidential approval."

According to Mr. Beam, the project calls for the repairing of the west wing of the high school building that was damaged by fire this spring. About eight classrooms and the library will be repaired. The library, which has been found too small to serve the needs of the school, will be enlarged.

The new building on the school grounds will be a two-story brick structure on the east side of the campus and will face Church street. It will contain approximately four classrooms, a music room, and a gymnasium with a seating capacity of about 500.

The new building will be used to relieve crowded conditions that have existed at the school for the past five or six years, said Mr. Beam. The gymnasium will afford opportunities for recreation and other activities that have been lacking. In the past the basement of the Community building has been used for indoor sports of the high school. The Community building has also been used for music classes which will be held in the new structure, upon its completion.

Work at the school is expected to start soon after the President approves the project.

RAILWAY VETS HOLD ANNUAL REUNION HERE

**George W. Sandlin Elected
President; Next Convention
To Be Held In Asheville.**

George E. Sandlin, of Old Fort, was elected president of the Old Timers Memorial Reunion here last Friday afternoon at the close of the sixth annual homecoming of agents and employees of the Asheville division of the Southern Railway who have served the railroad since 1870. The convention voted to make Asheville the permanent meeting place for the annual homecoming, and re-elected J. H. Sullivan, of Asheville, first vice-president; and H. F. Payne of Morganton, secretary. Mr. Sandlin succeeds Frank A. Burgin of Atlanta as president.

Approximately 140 Old Timers and their wives gathered in the high school auditorium here last Friday for the opening of the reunion. Old acquaintances were renewed, new friends were made and tales of railroad experiences were swapped.

Opening the sixth reunion, President Frank A. Burgin stated, "I am thankful for these people; thankful for the country in which we live, and Thank God we are Americans. It is great to be an American."

Following the invocation by Rev. W. G. McFarland of Asheville, the group sang "America."

George E. Lee, of Asheville, welcomed the Old Timers to the reunion. He paid tribute to Frank A. Burgin for his work as president of the reunion and to the 108 Old Timers who have died in the past six years.

"I am happy to have been able to record the names of 108 men and women who began their railway careers in McDowell county," he said. "Of these 102 that are living today there are four former telegraph operators, three daughters and one son of Walter Graham of Old Fort. Only the son, Walter Graham, is now with the railroad," he said.

Reviewing his historic records, Mr. Lee paid tribute to Mrs. Mamie Burgin Morris, (Mrs. James Morris), age 81, who was present when the first train arrived in Marion in 1870. The train was the Junaluska and its engineer was the late Lester S. Aldrich, whose son, Locke C. Aldrich, retired in 1937 after serving many years as a passenger engineer on the New York, Ontario and Western Railway.

"We are also pleased to note three of the granddaughters of Capt. Alney Burgin who was first agent at Marion," he said in introducing Mrs. Ernest House, Mrs. J. C. Rabb and Miss Bonnie Burgin of Marion.

He paid tribute to Miss Rena Neal, daughter of Major James M. Neal, deceased, who was the second railway agent at Marion; to Miss Julia Burton, only daughter of the late Fuller Burton, the sixth Marion agent, and to Mrs. John B. Newton, wife of the late John B. Newton, who surveyed the old W. N. C. Railway from Salisbury to Paint Rock for the Richmond and Danville Railroad in 1887.

Ladies at the reunion were welcomed by Mrs. Ben Carr of Marion. She was introduced by Miss Bonnie Burgin.

The memorial address was given by C. S. Fullbright of Hendersonville. George E. Lee presented the roll call of 41 railway men who died during the past year. The roll call of Marion deceased members of the railway brotherhood was given by George Sandlin.

Mr. Sandlin listed the 16 agents who have worked in Marion since 1870. Four are deceased—Captain Alney Burgin, Major James M. Neal, Amsley A. Yoder and R. Fuller Burton. Of the 13 living, he listed Wesley J. Townsend, of Augusta, Ga., George E. Lee of Asheville, Ben G. Carr of Marion, John F. Conniffe of Fayetteville, B. A. Cowan of Statesville, F. B. Gwinn of Albemarle, L. A. Peacock of Jacksonville, Florida, F. J. Flagler of High Point, John W. Steelman of Hickory, F. M. Williams of Addie, M. F. West of Canton, and

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