



PUBLIC OFFICES WILL OBSERVE YULE HOLIDAY

Courthouse Closes At Noon Today; Banks To Have Two Days; Stores Are Divided.

Practically all places of business in Marion will be closed Wednesday in observance of Christmas.

County offices will be closed from Tuesday noon till Friday morning, all county officials and office assistants taking a two-one-half holiday.

The city hall will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday for the holidays.

Banks will be closed all day Wednesday and Thursday, December 26 has been declared a bank holiday by Governor Hoey.

Most public and private offices in Marion will close today at noon, Tuesday, and will remain closed all day Wednesday.

The post office will be closed all day Wednesday and there will be no deliveries, city or rural, with the exception of special delivery mail, perishable mail and gift packages.

Grocery stores in Marion will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, with the exception of two stores which will be closed one day only, Wednesday. General stores will be closed Wednesday only.

The jail and sheriff's office in the court house will remain open for business Christmas day as usual, as will the city jail and police headquarters in city hall.

FUNDS ALLOTTED FOR \$159,000 REA PROJECT IN McDOWELL COUNTY

The Rural Electrification administration has allotted \$159,000 for a project in Burke and McDowell counties, it was announced this week. Work on the project is expected to start soon after January 1, when engineers will take to the fields to prepare the right of way for the rural lines.

According to County Agent S. L. Homewood, the rural power lines will serve about 700 patrons in the two counties. Most of the lines in McDowell county will be in the Dysartsville section, running to Nebo and then spreading out over the Hankins section. It is expected that a total of 125 families will be served by the lines in McDowell, said Mr. Homewood, stating that a survey of the routes of the rural lines had already been made in this county.

The Rural Electrification administration has announced the allotment of \$9,133,500 for projects in 28 states.

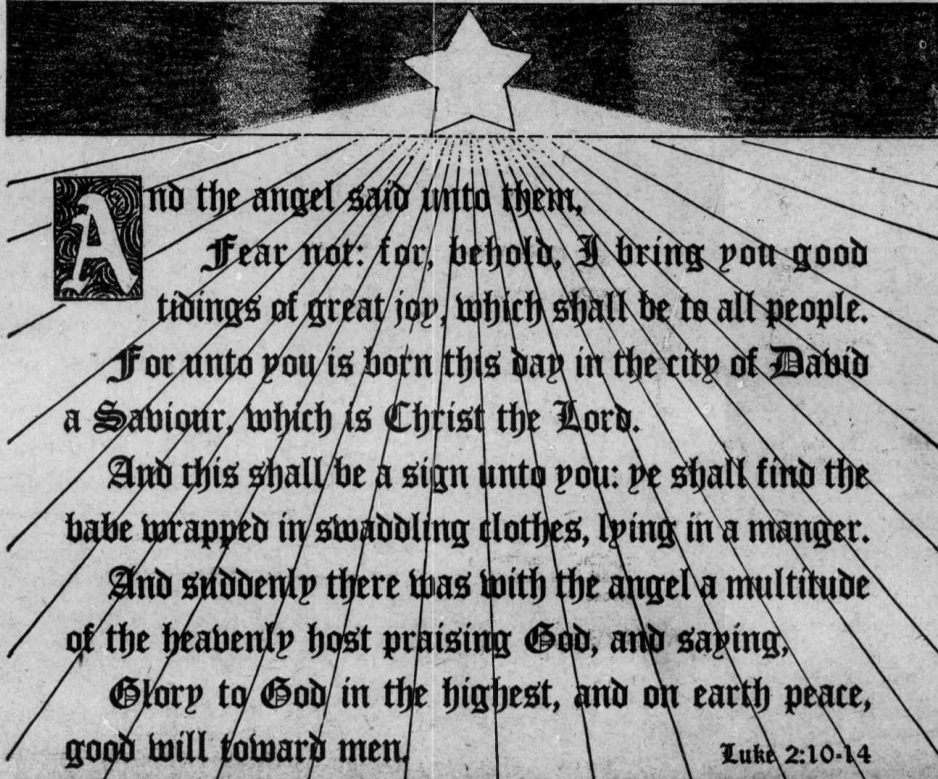
Among the allotments were: Davie Electric Membership corporation, Mocksville, N. C., \$30,000; Burke-McDowell Electric Membership corporation, Morganton, N. C., \$159,000; and Carteret-Craven Electric Membership corporation, Beaufort, N. C., \$143,000.

MRS. J. W. BRUCE PASSES IN RICHMOND HOSPITAL

Relatives here have been notified of the death Thursday in a Richmond, Va., hospital of Mrs. J. Wesley Bruce of Greenville, S. C. Death followed an operation.

Mrs. Bruce, a native of McDowell county, is survived by her husband and a step-son and step-daughter of Greenville, a sister, Mrs. J. P. Ray, of Marion, and three brothers, P. H. Mashburn, of Old Fort, W. W. Mashburn, of Oradway, Colo., and W. H. Mashburn of the state of Washington.

Patronize home merchants.



And the angel said unto them,
Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be a sign unto you: ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
Luke 2:10-14

WORK IS BEGUN ON GYM AT LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL

Excavation work for a new gymnasium at Marion high school was begun this week. The gym will be a brick and steel structure in keeping with the present high school building. It will house a basketball court with a seating capacity of about 500, a music room and several classrooms. The new building will face Church street and will be constructed between the old high school building and the street.

As work on the gym begins, WPA laborers are completing repairs and an addition to the fire-damaged west wing of the high school building. A new stair tower has been constructed on the west end and four new classrooms have been built in the space formerly occupied by the old stair tower.

The \$103,000 repair and expansion program is being financed partly with money obtained from the insurance company and partly by a grant from the WPA.

MONTH OF JANUARY IS TAX LISTING PERIOD

The annual listing period for real and personal property in McDowell county will begin January 1 and end January 31, according to Mrs. Mary G. Burgin, tax supervisor.

Mrs. Burgin explained that real and personal property must be listed annually as well as poll tax for all males between 21 and 50 years of age. Township tax listers for McDowell met here December 15 and received instructions as to their duties. The necessary forms and books to be used in the listings have been distributed.

Citizens of the county have been requested to cooperate with the tax listers in getting their real and personal property on the books. The law allows only the month of January for listing.

The statute provides penalties for late listing, and the tax supervisor said that everyone should list as soon as possible after January 1, so that the last minute rush will not keep anyone from getting their property on the tax books on time.

N. C. COUNCIL OFFERS A TEN-POINT PROGRAM FOR 1941 LEGISLATURE

Raleigh, Dec. 19.—The state legislative council, composed of nine statewide organizations, today suggested a 10-point program for the 1941 legislature, including state labor statutes similar to federal laws now in effect.

- The program:
1. Nine-month school term, supported by the state.
 2. Raising compulsory school attendance age from 14 to 16 years, with adequate enforcement facilities.
 3. Prohibition of sale of intoxicating liquors near military training centers.
 4. An industrial training school for negro girls.
 5. State aid for extending public library service.
 6. Reissuance of drivers' licenses every three years to promote highway safety.
 7. A plan for retirement and tenure of teachers and state employees, endorsed by the department of education.
 8. Organized county health service for all 100 counties, sponsored by the state board of health.
 9. More adequate care and treatment of mentally defective children.
 10. The labor program.

FUNERAL TO BE HELD TODAY FOR G. E. COWAN

George Edwards Cowan, 77, prominent farmer and citizen of the Dysartsville section, died at his residence Sunday evening, December 22. Funeral services will be conducted today, Tuesday, at 2 o'clock at Trinity Methodist church by Rev. G. L. Wilkinson. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lillian Landis Cowan; three daughters, Mrs. P. M. Brooks of Paducah, Ky., Mrs. Dewey Mashburn of Union Mills and Miss Grace Cowan of Marion; four sons, John B. Cowan of Water Valley, Miss. Frank E. Cowan of Akron, Ohio, Arnold L. Cowan of High Point, and Bruce Cowan of Dysartsville; one sister, Miss Julia Cowan of Dysartsville, and six grandchildren.

McDOWELL TO FURNISH 16 MEN DURING JANUARY

State Selective Service headquarters in Raleigh has announced that McDowell county will furnish 16 men to North Carolina's January army quota. This allotment for the county is expected to be filled by volunteers, 50 of whom have signed at the local draft office for induction. The January quota for the state is 2,001, of which 366 are to be negroes. The negro quotas have not yet been assigned to local boards in the state.

Western North Carolina's January quota is 374 men.

State headquarters said the next contingent will begin reporting at the induction center at Fort Bragg on January 6.

This state provided 516 men in its December quota. Of this number, three white men were from McDowell.

Before July 1, 1941, this state is expected to provide 15,613 men.

The dates on which Western North Carolina men will report and the quotas assigned to the boards in the counties are as follows:

- January 16: Clay, 14; Cherokee, 15; Graham, 5; Swain, 8; Jackson, 15.
January 17: Buncombe board (1) 15; Buncombe (2), 14; Buncombe (3), 16; Buncombe (4), 15; Polk, 7; Mitchell, 11; Yancey, 11; Avery, 9; Transylvania, 10; Madison, 16; Henderson, 18.
January 20: Watauga, 12; Ashe, 13; Alleghany, 5; Caldwell, 15; Wilkes (1), 6; Wilkes (2), 11; Yadkin, 13; McDowell, 16; Burke, 2.
January 21: Rutherford (1), 13; Rutherford (2), 15; Cleveland (1), 16; Cleveland (2), 10; Catawba (1) 19; Catawba (2), 23.

COURTHOUSE WILL CLOSE TUESDAY FOR CHRISTMAS

The county courthouse will close at noon Tuesday for the Christmas holidays and will reopen Friday morning, it was announced yesterday. All offices in the court house, with the exception of the sheriff's department, will observe the holidays.

MANY CHILDREN ATTEND CHRISTMAS PARTY HERE

Approximately 220 children of McDowell county gathered in the Community building here last Friday night for the annual Francis Marion Christmas party for the underprivileged. In cooperation with other civic organizations of Marion the Francis Marion club presented a full Christmas program for the boys and girls, including a movie, a Christmas reading, a visit of Santa Claus and the distribution of gifts.

Children were brought to the party by members of the Francis Marion, Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, who collected carloads of boys and girls from all parts of the county. Arriving at the Community building, the children were ushered into a banquet hall gaily decorated for the party. Gifts were piled high on several large tables at one end of the hall and near the fireplace was a huge Christmas tree with all the trimmings.

The program opened with the showing of several movie shorts. A Christmas reading was presented and had just been completed when shouts rose from all parts of the hall and all eyes turned in one direction as Santa Claus entered the room. Unable to keep their seats, the children crowded around Santa and refused to be quiet until the North Pole visitor departed.

Following Santa's visit, gifts and Christmas stockings were distributed to the children by members of the Francis Marion, Kiwanis, Rotary and Junior Woman's clubs. Children left the hall with gifts piled high in their arms and many of the smaller tots were so loaded down they were forced to drag some of their gifts behind them.

Arrangements for the Christmas party were begun several weeks ago with the collection of used toys. These toys were repaired by members of the Francis Marion club and cooperating organizations. Collections were made by civic club members of Marion and the Boy and Girl Scouts.

Funds for the party were contributed by the Francis Marion, Rotary, Kiwanis and Junior Woman's clubs and the Marion Theatre, which presented a benefit show here last week.

The party was the largest ever held here by the Francis Marion club. It was held to provide the underprivileged with a night of fun and to carry out the slogan which the sponsor had adopted for the occasion, "The Children Must Be Happy This Christmas." Arrangements for the annual event were this year under the direction of Joe Noyes.

GIRLS' NYA PROJECT IS AT NEW LOCATION

McDowell county's NYA home service project was moved from the third floor of the court house here last week to new quarters on West Court street to the second floor of the building now occupied by Larkin's clothing store.

The number of girls employed on the project has been increased from 25 to 31 since last week, stated Mrs. Nelle B. Alexander, McDowell NYA supervisor, this week. It is expected that the number of girls working on the project will soon be increased to 40, she said.

The new quarters for the project provide two work rooms, a reception room and a small kitchenette. Girls are taught all types of sewing and practical methods in home service by working on the project.

CLUB WILL DISTRIBUTE CHRISTMAS BASKETS

The Marion Kiwanis club will distribute 21 Christmas baskets to needy families in McDowell county on Tuesday morning, December 24, it has been announced.

Hugh F. Beam of Marion is chairman of the Kiwanis committee arranging the basket distribution.

CRIMINAL TERM SUPERIOR COURT TO BEGIN MONDAY

Several Cases Of Importance Scheduled For Trial Before Judge Bobbitt.

The January criminal term of Superior court begins here Monday, December 30, with Judge William H. Bobbitt of Charlotte presiding. Court has been scheduled for one week.

Several cases of wide interest are scheduled for trial during the criminal term.

Charlie William Jones of West Marion is expected to be tried for assault resulting in death. Jones has confessed to Sheriff Grady Nichols that he had a quarrel with Raymond (Sandy) Burgin in a boxcar sidetracked near the Marion depot November 5. The argument is said to have led to a blow which knocked Burgin down, causing his head to strike the boxcar floor with such force that it fractured his skull. The body of Burgin remained in the car for two days and was discovered in Asheville by railroad men. Several persons have told of seeing Burgin's body in the car in Marion, but their suspicion was not aroused because they thought he was asleep, it was stated.

Jones confessed his part in the fight to Sheriff Nichols here on November 9, stating that Burgin had been struck down after a quarrel over "popskull" liquor.

Morris Brown, 19-year-old McDowell county negro, is scheduled to be tried for the murder of Allen Forney, negro, on the night of October 31. Brown was said to have struck Forney on the head with a brick, after a quarrel at a Halloween party in the Morehead Ridge section. Forney died soon afterwards with a fractured skull.

Mary Ella Hennessee, McDowell county farm girl, will be scheduled for trial in connection with the death of her new-born child on December 2.

Other cases expected to come up for trial include those of Roy Cline, charged with murder as the result of an automobile accident in which a Mrs. Taylor of Old Fort was killed; Edward Hoyle, charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious body injury on Clarence Burgin; and Frank Womick, charged with assault with a deadly weapon on Boyd Turner with intent to kill.

W. N. C. GROUP IS TO MEET AT LAKE LURE

Representatives of many towns in Western North Carolina will meet at Lake Lure on December 29 to discuss the advertising of this part of the state through personal contacts this spring. The meeting is being called by Western North Carolina Communities Associated, an organization formed this fall to build better cooperation between the communities in Western North Carolina and to promote this part of the state as a tourist center.

The meeting has been called by James F. Washburn, mayor of Lake Lure and president of the association. The meeting, scheduled for 2 o'clock on the afternoon of the 29th, will be attended by Walter J. Cartier, secretary of the McDowell Chamber of Commerce.

NO PAPER THURSDAY

The Progress is issued on Tuesday of this week instead of Thursday in order that The Progress force may get their work in line for the Christmas holidays. The next regular issue of The Progress will be on Thursday, January 2.