

# THE MARION PROGRESS

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

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## Delbert Lewis Given 29 To 30 Years In State Prison For Murder

### Fisher Is Sentenced To 19 To 20 Years; Latta Smith Gets 9 To 10 Years.

Delbert Lewis, 59, charged with strangling his aged wife to death here last September, entered a plea of guilty to second degree murder through his attorneys Tuesday morning in McDowell superior court and was sentenced to 29 to 30 years in state's prison.

The judge made it plain, it was his intent to see that Lewis was incarcerated for the remainder of his natural life on account of mental aberrations alleged in the testimony. He was arraigned Tuesday morning.

Sheriff Grady Nichols was placed on the stand. He testified that about two years ago, Lewis bound and gagged his wife and left her at home but that a neighbor found and released her. The slain woman was his second wife.

Sheriff Nichols testified that his first wife, now residing in South Carolina, wrote him that Lewis told her that he killed a paymaster for the C. C. & O. railroad at the time the road was built here and robbed him and buried him. She said he showed her the grave.

He said Lewis was sent to the asylum at Morganton in 1916 and that he was said to have been suffering from delusions and hallucinations.

It was brought out that Lewis shot at his first wife on one occasion and then tried to drown himself. He remained at the hospital when it was said he seemed to be more feeble-minded than insane.

According to his confession, Lewis gagged and garroted his 65-year-old wife, Emily, in their three-room cottage here early in the morning of last September 6, then went off to work, leaving her to strangle. He was arrested by Sheriff Grady Nichols two days later, as he was returning home from his wife's funeral. On September 10, he was charged with murder, and later being left to think it over, he sent for the sheriff five days later, and confessed the crime in detail. At the time of the slaying, he was employed in a coal and wood yard here as a laborer.

Henry (Bud) Fisher accused of shooting Victor Rutherford, young negro, to death near here last March was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to the state prison for a term of 19 to 20 years.

Latta Smith, charged with robbery, was sentenced to 9 to 10 years in state prison.

Macon O'Dear, transporting whiskey, four months on road.

Della Duncan, driving without operator's license, sentenced to 45 days in jail.

Vernon Teague, involuntary manslaughter, sentenced from 5 to 7 years in state prison.

M. H. Mull, "peeping Tom", ten months in jail.

Calvin Honeycutt and Orbie Honeycutt, malicious injury, burning of box car and trespass; sentenced to 15 months in jail on first charge; prayer for judgment conducted in each case on 2nd charge.

Mamie O'Dear, assault with deadly weapon, 45 days in jail.

Bob Gilliam, assault with deadly weapon, 18 months on road.

Bill and Emily Harding, trespassing, 30 days; drunk and disorderly, 30 days.

Ben Hendley, assault, prayer for judgment on payment of costs.

### FIVE HEAD OF CATTLE KILLED BY LIGHTNING

Five head of cattle belonging to Bruce Gibbs were killed by lightning at Pleasant Gardens during the electrical storm last Saturday afternoon. The cattle were grazing in the pasture near Lake Tahoma when a bolt of lightning struck in the field, killing two fine Hereford cows and three calves.

Enlisting in the scrap metal campaign, the Texas petroleum industry has already gathered 45,000 gross tons of "idle metal".

### LUTHERANS OF MARION TAKE FIRST 5 HONORS AT STATE TALENT QUEST

Members of St. Matthew's Lutheran church of Marion won five first prizes in the State Talent Quest held at St. Stephen's Lutheran church in Hickory last Sunday. The winners are: Miss Mary Jane Klutz, piano solo; Miss Evelyn Britt, dramatization (Mastergift); Mr. and Mrs. Junior McKinney, newspaper clippings as church news; Mr. and Mrs. Junior McKinney, history of St. Matthew's church in pictures; John Klutz, match cover exhibit.

The winners will be eligible to enter the International Talent Quest at the International convention of the Walther League to be held in Denver, Colo., July 12-18.

The winners in the contest Sunday evening presented a program over WHKY Sunday evening from 8 to 9 o'clock.

### GLENWOOD CHURCHES TO HAVE MEMORIAL DAY

Annual Memorial Day services will be held Sunday at the Glenwood Methodist Church at 11 o'clock with both the Methodist and Baptist Churches taking part. Rev. H. W. Bell, pastor, will preach the Memorial sermon and at 11:45 services will be held in the cemetery.

The W. O. W. camp of Glenwood will hold services at the graves of their deceased members with a short talk by the district leader and graves will be decorated afterwards.

Lunch will be served at one o'clock and services resumed at two o'clock. Stanley Livingston, principal of the Glenwood school, will make the afternoon address and special quartet music will be rendered.

The daily vacation Bible school and revival meeting of the Baptist Church will come to a close with a commencement exercise at the Baptist Church at eight o'clock.

The public is cordially invited to attend these services and bring baskets of lunch.

### N. Y. A. GIRLS ACCEPT DEFENSE POSITIONS

Ten girls of the National Youth Administration from areas in western North Carolina left Monday from the Sardis training center of the NYA near Charlotte to go on active training duty with the United States army signal corps at Fort Monmouth, N. J. They were classed as radio technicians.

Two of the ten selected were Miss Elizabeth Green and Miss Evelyn Jamison, both of Marion.

Leo Manley, director of the sixth district of NYA, has announced that these girls will start their work with a salary of \$1,440 a year and within six months will be raised to \$1,620 a year.

## JURIST URGES ABOLITION OF GRAND JURIES IN N. C.

Abolition of the grand jury system in North Carolina and diversion of money spent for that plan to improving conditions at North Carolina's hospitals for the insane were advocated here Monday by Judge Hoyle Sink in his charge to the grand jury in McDowell superior court.

Judge Sink declares it costs the state \$750,000 annually to maintain the system which he said has been outmoded and that sum would go a long way toward improving life for unfortunates in the state institutions, he said.

Explaining his advocacy of the abolition of the grand jury as an "outmoded" institution, he said that it is now a little more than a "rubber stamp" for the bills presented by the district solicitor.

In the old days, he added, solicitors often lived 100 miles or more from places where they would attend court, and there was a definite need for local representatives of the body politic to investigate crimes and make presentments which the solicitors could use in preferring charges and bringing cases to trial.

But nowadays, with modern means of transportation and com-

## Residents Can Get Additional Sugar Amounts

### Set-Up Provides Enough For 20 Quarts For Adult, More For Children.

McDowell county housewives can obtain additional sugar for canning purposes under new regulations announced by the county rationing board.

The new set-up allots sufficient sugar to can 20 quarts of fruits and berries for each adult member of the family, and 40 quarts for each child, plus one pound per person for making jellies, preserves and fruit butters.

Persons who registered for the fivepound allotment each member of the family under the original rationing plan, may obtain certificates for the difference between that amount and the quantity due them under the liberalized policy at the rationing board.

The board announced yesterday that 22,849 applications were made for war ration books during the original registration for sugar last month. The 1940 population of the county was 22,996.

It was explained that the 40 quarts per child under 18 years of age, and 20 quarts per adult quantity had been arrived at on expert advice, and that the allowance is at a rate of one-fourth pound per quart.

In arriving at the amount a home canner is eligible to obtain, it was emphasized, home canning sugar for which certificates already have been issued will be deducted, as well as and fruit carried over from last season.

### Cites Illustration

To illustrate: A family of two adults and three children under 18 years would be entitled to sugar for the canning of 40 quarts for the two adults and 120 quarts for the three children, a total of 160 quarts. If they had 12 quarts carried over from last year, that would be deducted, leaving 148 quarts for which they would be entitled to sugar.

At the rate of one-fourth pound per quart, they could obtain 37 pounds.

In addition, under the new plan, they would be entitled to one pound per person, or five pounds, for making preserves, jellies, and fruit butters, thus bringing the total sugar allowance to 42 pounds.

If they had already obtained certificates for the five pounds per person permitted under the former plan, or 25 pounds that amount

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### LIBRARY WILL GET ABOUT 700 NEW BOOKS DURING MONTH OF JUNE

The Florence Thomas Memorial Library will be increased by around 700 volumes during the month of June, Mrs. Walker Blanton, president of the library's board of trustees, said last week. Mrs. Blanton explained that the library has over \$1,000 to spend for new books.

"The book selection committee is working out a well-rounded list of books, and they should be ready for the shelves within the month," said Mrs. Blanton. The number of books to be purchased this month would have almost doubled the number of books the library owned in 1937, the year of its founding, she said. As it is, it will bring the library to well over 2,000 volumes.

Discussing the books, Mrs. Blanton said that the new selections will be books which pertain vitally to the war, books to supplement the school libraries for parallel reading, many new children's books, books on vocations and books on sugarless cooking and the use of left-overs for the housewife as she labors under the restrictions of government priorities and food shortages.

The book selection committee is making its choices with the understanding that the books should become popular with Marion and McDowell county readers. Along with this objective the committee is interested in introducing readers to good books. Some of them will deal with Japan, China, India, Australia and the Philippines. The newest Rand-McNally map of the world is being purchased to be placed on the library wall. "There will be loads of mystery stories," said Mrs. Blanton.

Explaining the large amount of money which the book selection committee has on hand, Mrs. Blanton said that the Florence Thomas Memorial Library was allotted \$900 by the state and \$900 by Marion and McDowell county in April. Then the state gave \$300 more to the library when the surplus of the state library fund, appropriated by the last session of the state legislature, was divided among the libraries qualified to receive the state aid. Mrs. Blanton said that the surplus existed because 24 North Carolina counties did not see fit to match the fund which the state would have donated.

Members of the book selection committee are Mrs. Blanton, Mrs. J. Homer Beaman and Mrs. Zeno Martin.

### RECOMMENDATIONS ARE MADE BY GRAND JURY

The court house, jail and sheriff's quarters were found to be in good sanitary condition by the grand jury which served at this term of court. The report was submitted to Judge Hoyle Sink by C. L. Tate, foreman, upon the conclusion of the grand jury's duties for the term. The twelve prisoners in jail were reported well cared for. It was recommended, however, that some means whereby prisoners may communicate with the sheriff in case of emergency be installed.

It was recommended that an electrically cooled drinking fountain be installed in the corridor of the first floor of the court house.

Complaints having been made by residents, the jury made an inspection of the sewer disposal plant for the Town of Marion located south of highway, 221 near the cemetery. After questioning residents in that area and an inspection, recommendation was made in the report that the County Commissioners be requested to have the equipment inspected by state authorities and ascertain its true conditions.

The state prison camp was reported found in good condition with 76 prisoners and 9 guards. The prisoners reported treatment above reproach. The farm contained 51 hogs, 5 cows and 4 mules. Growing crops were reported in fairly good condition.

### TO OBSERVE MEMORIAL DAY AT HARMONY GROVE

Memorial day will be observed at Harmony Grove Baptist church on Sunday, June 14. A special program has been arranged for the morning service, beginning at 10 o'clock. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Marion Sponsors Soft-Ball Games For The Summer

### Organization Off To Good Start With Game Friday; Schedule For Season.

The Greater Marion Athletic Association was in regular session at the high school building Monday night with Robert W. Twitty, president, presiding. During the meeting it was definitely decided that Marion would be able to sponsor an industrial twilight soft-ball league this summer.

The industrial members of the league are as follows: Marion Manufacturing Company, Clinchfield Manufacturing Company, Cross Cotton Mills, Broyhill Furniture Company, Drexel Furniture Company, Josephine Hosiery Mill, Francis Marion Club and the American Legion. Besides the above named participating members the Marion Kiwanis Club and Rotary Club will also be playing company.

The new organization got off to a good start last Friday where the East Marion Sluggers played the Marion All-Stars in an exhibition game played on high school athletic field. The Sluggers won by a score of 12-5 with the details of the game being reported elsewhere in this issue of The Progress.

Beginning Monday, June 15, the program for the young people of the town will begin. Coach Hudson, who has been employed to direct the activities of the association, is anxious to meet all the young folks, between the ages of 9-16, at the high school. All interested young folks are asked to report at nine o'clock in morning on the date mentioned above. The program calls for tennis, soft-ball, volley ball and dodge ball, along with other activities as the situation may demand as the program is developed.

Coach Hudson is also interested in meeting the managers of each of the industrial units tonight at eight o'clock in high school auditorium. The purpose of this meeting is to complete details of the league which is to have a split season beginning Tuesday, June 16. Rules and regulations will also be discussed. The schedule for the first six weeks of the season is listed below:

### First Week, June 16-18

Tuesday, Marion High School field: Francis Marion vs. Josephine Mills; Cross Mill vs. Broyhill.

Tuesday, East Marion: Clinchfield vs. Drexel; East Marion vs. American Legion.

Thursday, Marion High school field: Francis Marion vs. East Marion; Cross Mill vs. Josephine Mills.

Thursday, Clinchfield: Clinchfield vs. American Legion; Drexel vs. Broyhill.

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### BOOKMOBILE MAKES SCHEDULE CHANGES

Mrs. Ann C. Hawkins, county librarian, announced last week that bookmobile service throughout the county will operate on a monthly schedule instead of its usual bi-monthly schedule. The schedule changes were made to conserve tires and gasoline.

"I don't think our rural patron will be inconvenienced any by the change," Mrs. Hawkins said, "because we are letting them have three or four books per month. While we were on the two-week schedule, patrons could select only two books. We are also going to carry a larger and newer supply of magazines on our bookmobile visits. They will be given away, and it is hoped that they will be passed along from neighbor to neighbor."

### SOFT BALL GAME TO BE PLAYED HERE FRIDAY

The Greater Marion Athletic Association announces that a double header soft ball game will be played Friday afternoon on the Marion high school athletic field at 5 o'clock as an opening of the season exhibition. No admission will be charged.