

THE MARION PROGRESS

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Western N. C. Camp And Hospital Council Organized

New Organization To Provide Assistance For Men, Women In Armed Services.

Mr. and Mrs. Zeno Martin, Mrs. Eugene Cross, Jr. and Miss Doris Hill, representatives of McDowell County Chapter of the Red Cross, attended the organizational meeting of the western North Carolina camp and hospital council, composed of 17 counties, which was held Tuesday in the Red Cross office of Moore General Hospital in Asheville.

Camp and hospital councils of the Red Cross have been established throughout the country and provide supplementary equipment, supplies, and services for men and women of army posts and naval stations within the United States.

It was explained by Miss Marguerite Parrish, Red Cross field director of Moore General hospital, that the Red Cross is responsible for supplementing and assisting the army and navy with welfare services for the able bodied and for social service and recreation for patients and convalescents. In addition, commanding officers may request the Red Cross and other organizations to provide service, equipment, and supplies that may be needed when they cannot be secured from official sources at the time to meet the need.

The camp and hospital council welcomes the volunteer aid of organizations and individuals in communities adjacent to army camps and naval stations, it was pointed out. The council will be the channel through which the community can directly aid the armed forces, through the Red Cross field director. The program is under Red Cross sponsorship, although it may not be made up entirely of Red Cross representation. The national Red Cross has assumed responsibility for the work on a national scale.

Camp and hospital committees are organized under the authority of Red Cross chapter executive committees. The council will be made up of two delegates from each of the chapters concerned, namely the chairman and vice-chairman of the chapter camp and hospital committee.

Members of the McDowell County chapter will be represented on the council by Zeno Martin, county chairman, Mrs. W. W. Neal, Jr., production chairman, Miss Doris Hill, local secretary, Mrs. E. C. McMillan, chairman of the surgical dressings project, Mrs. Thomas Greenlee, head of the Junior Red Cross division, Mrs. Carl McMurray, Mrs. Eugene Cross, Jr., Mrs. J. F. Snipes and Mrs. P. H. Mashburn.

CPL. JOHN D. WATKINS AWARDED AIR MEDAL

Cpl. John D. Watkins, radio operator of the 11th air force, U. S. Army, has been awarded the air medal for meritorious achievement in aerial flights, according to information received here by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Watkins.

Cpl. Watkins entered military service from North Carolina and during the period of flight from December 3, 1942 to April 24, 1943 he has successfully completed over 100 hours of operational flight missions in cargo airplanes in the Aleutians area where contact with the enemy was expected. The majority of these missions are flown over long water distances and in the face of adverse flying weather including instrument and icing conditions. The skill, aggressiveness and devotion to duty demonstrated by these enlisted men reflects great credit on themselves and the army air force.

BANKS, POSTOFFICE TO OBSERVE HOLIDAY

The First National Bank and Marion Industrial Bank will be closed all day Monday, July 5, in observance of the Fourth of July.

The postoffice will also be closed Monday in observance of the holiday, it was stated by Postmaster Caldwell. No deliveries will be made Monday by either city or rural carriers.

RECRUITING OFFICER WILL BE HERE TODAY

Chief Petty Officer F. O. Carver, Jr., Navy recruiting representative for this county, will be in Marion this week on Thursday only. His headquarters will be in the assembly room of the City Hall, and he will be there from 8:30 A. M. until 4:00 P. M. Next week, he will resume his regular schedule, he announced, by being at the City Hall on Friday and Saturday, from 8:30 A. M. until 5:30 P. M. on Friday, and from 8:30 A. M. until 4:00 P. M. on Saturday. All who are interested in discussing the Navy can see him at the City Hall on those days.

STAFF SGT. SPARKS OF MARION KILLED IN ACTION JUNE 14

Staff Sgt. Claude R. Sparks, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harrington Sparks of Marion, was killed in action on June 14, in the Southwest Pacific area, according to a telegram received this week by his parents from the war department in Washington.

Sgt. Sparks enlisted in the army in May, 1940, through the Asheville recruiting office, asked for foreign service, and was sent to the Hawaiian islands. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor when the Japs made their attack there in December, 1941 and soon thereafter was transferred into the New Guinea and Australian battle areas. While stationed in Hawaii he received training as a radio operator and at the time of his death was a radio operator on a heavy bomber.

Sgt. Sparks had never been home since entering the army, although he wrote his parents and relatives often. In a letter several months ago to his brother-in-law, W. J. Johnson of 9 1-2 Pearson Drive, he said that he would like to be home where he could enjoy his favorite sports—hunting and fishing—but that he had his hands full doing some "good hunting" in the war area.

He attended Marion high school and was an employee of the Clinchfield Manufacturing company before entering the army.

A brother, Sgt. Carl Sparks is stationed on the West Coast in the army.

DISTRICT MEETING OF MASONS FRIDAY NIGHT; DR. HOFFMAN SPEAKER

A district meeting of the Masonic Order will be held here Friday night, July 2. The principal speaker for the evening will be Dr. M. E. Hoffman, Junior Grand Deacon, of Asheville. Grand Master J. W. Payne of Salisbury is also expected to attend the meeting.

Fred C. Kinzie, District Deputy Grand Master, of Spindale, will preside. An interesting program will be presented and a full attendance of the members of Mystic Tie Lodge of Marion and Joppa Lodge of Old Fort is expected.

MONTFORDS COVE CHURCH TO HONOR MEN IN SERVICE

The Montfords Cove Baptist Church will hold a special service Sunday in honor of boys of that community who are now in the service of the U. S. armed forces, M. R. Nanney, chairman of the program committee, announced this week. R. E. Price, editor of the Rutherford County News, will be guest speaker.

The service will begin at 10 a. m. and the following program will be presented:

10:00 Songs by the choir.
10:10 Devotional by W. S. Haynes, Sunday School Supt.
10:20 Song: "America."
10:30 Singing of Stars on the flag by mothers of the boys in service.
11:00 Song: "Star Spangled Banner."
11:30 Address: R. E. Price.
Sunday school will be held at 1:30 p. m. and church service will be held at 2:30 with a sermon by Rev. C. C. Parker, pastor.

To Establish Fixed Prices Certain Foods

Assistance To Be Given Marion Price Panel By Mr. Hamilton Next Week.

Fixed retail prices on a number of meats and foods will be established at an early date by the Price Panel, according to information released from the local War Price and Rationing board. Assistance from the OPA Asheville office will be given the Marion Price Panel in establishing fixed prices for Marion and McDowell county. Mr. Hamilton of the Asheville office will be in Marion on Monday and Tuesday of next week for this purpose.

Fixed prices will be of help to both merchants and the buying public, it was pointed out. It will be the duty of the Price Panel and their assistants to offer all the help possible to merchants along this line, to check prices and to handle any complaints which may come up.

It is the opinion of the local War Price and Rationing board that fixed prices will not work a hardship on anyone and that it is perhaps the biggest step forward by rationing authorities in an effort to curb inflation.

SURPRISE BLACKOUT HERE TUESDAY NIGHT

Tuesday night's surprise blackout was the fourth experience in Marion, while not altogether perfect was termed by civilian defense officials as being very successful. Several lights in the business places remained on through neglect, but taken as a whole the blackout was above the expectations of such a test.

The first blue signal was received here at 9:42 p. m. and the final all-clear was sounded at 10:12.

Mayor Wilkinson stated that it is important to have all citizens cooperate in observing the rules and regulations of the blackout. Citizens are cautioned not to leave lights burning in their places of business unless provision is made for turning them off from the outside.

ROBERTS APPOINTED TO CIVILIAN POST

The appointment of Richard D. Roberts, member of the high school faculty of Pleasant Gardens school, as Chief Gas Officer of the Civilian Defense Organization was announced yesterday by Zeno Martin, county chairman of civilian defense.

The appointment was approved and accepted by Mr. Roberts who plans to take a course in chemistry at the University of North Carolina in preparation for this office. On his return Mr. Roberts will instruct members of the civilian defense organization in methods of combating poison gas.

MILITARY TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE PROVIDED FOR BOYS

Washington, June 26. — Military scholarships for male high school graduates between 17 and 18 will be available beginning this summer, the war department said today in announcing creation of the army specialized training reserve program. The reserve program will be limited to volunteers who made qualifying scores on pre-induction tests last April 2 and the total number of scholarships will be limited to 25,000.

The war department said that the youths selected for the reserve training will wear civilian attire, will not be on active duty, and will not receive basic military training during the period of the scholarship.

At the end of the school term in which an individual reaches his 18th birthday he will be placed on active military duty for basic military training prior to assignment to the army specialized training program.

The department said that the military scholarships will provide tuition, food, housing and medical service. Those youths eligible for the scholarships will be notified of their eligibility, the department said.

Mrs. Parker Is Elected Head of W. M. U. Group

Other Officers Named At Associational Meeting; Missionary Heard.

The annual session of the W. M. U. of the Blue Ridge Baptist Association was held at the First Baptist Church of Marion, on June 24 with sixty-eight present. The theme of the meeting was "Christ Pre-Imminent." At the morning session Mrs. Wade Bostick of Shelby gave a message on "Christ Exalted in All the Kingdoms of the Earth." In the afternoon, Miss Bertha Smith, returned missionary from China told of her work and experiences in that country. Miss Smith was one of the missionaries interned in Occupied China, and returned to the United States on the Gripsholm.

Mrs. C. C. Parker was elected associational superintendent of the Woman's Missionary Union, Mrs. J. P. Baker of East Marion, associate superintendent and Mrs. A. J. Gentry of East Marion, secretary, to serve for the coming year.

The next annual meeting will be held at Clear Creek Baptist Church in June.

TWO MARION SOLDIERS WIN PROMOTIONS AT KEY FIELD

Two soldiers from Marion, recently received identical promotions at Key Field, Miss., when Sergeants James G. Condrey and Percy D. Caraway were advanced to the grade of staff sergeant.

The two sergeants, both members of the air base squadron at Key Field, are also working side by side in the airways service division at this Air Corps Base, it is announced. Sergeant Condrey, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Abe Condrey, live on Rout 1, Marion, is a graduate of Pleasant Gardens High School, while Sergeant Caraway, whose mother, Mrs. Ida N. Caraway, lives at Cross Mill in Marion, attended Marion high school.

Both soldiers entered the Army Air Corps at Fort Bragg, August 13, 1941.

THREE EXCEPTIONS TO DRAFT POLICY

Raleigh, June 30.—While it is true that fathers generally will not be called for military service until the supply of single and childless married men is exhausted, there are three exceptions to that policy, it was pointed out today by General J. Van B. Metts, state director of selective service.

The exceptions are:

1. Men who have become fathers since September 14, 1942.

2. Registrants engaged in non-deferrable activities or occupations. The War Manpower commission has designated certain activities and occupations as non-deferrable. General Metts explained, and fathers engaged in these non-deferrable activities and occupations may be classified as 1-A and selected for service.

3. Registrants who have been classified as essential farmers, but who have left the farms on which they were found to be essential without first obtaining permission of their local boards to do so.

Men in the last two groups are subject to selection for service, regardless of number of children or the dates of their birth, General Metts said.

STORES TO REMAIN OPEN MONDAY, JULY 5

The Marion stores and most other places of business will not observe Monday, July 5, as a holiday, according to recent announcement of the Marion Merchants Association. The stores, it is understood, will remain open throughout the day Monday.

LAND OF PEAKS

North Carolina's mountains lift 125 peaks 5000 feet into the sky, 43 more than 6000 feet, and one, Mt. Mitchell, higher than any other in eastern United States.

PLAN REVIVAL AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HERE BEGINNING ON JULY 18

Officers and members of the First Baptist Church met Tuesday night to make plans for a revival meeting which will start July 18. Rev. E. F. Sullivan, who will assist Dr. B. F. Bray, pastor, in conducting the revival services was present and made many practical and pertinent suggestions for conducting the meeting.

Mr. Sullivan is pastor of the Highland Baptist Church of Hickory where he has served for 16 years. He is a graduate of Wake Forest College and the Louisville Seminary and has only held three pastorates in thirty-three years. There are now 600 members in the Highland Baptist Church as compared with 260 when he first began to serve.

This revival is a part of an association wide campaign with many of the churches in the Blue Ridge Baptist Association taking part at the same time. It is the first time a simultaneous meeting has been tried in this association but the plan has been tried successfully in other neighboring associations.

N. C. SETTING RECORD IN NAVAL RECRUITING

North Carolina appeared well on the way to setting another record in Navy recruiting, Chief Petty Officer F. O. Carver, Jr., of the Asheville Navy Recruiting Station, said this week. Chief Carver recalled that in May there were 774 Tar Heel 17-year-olds who volunteered for the Navy, setting a new, national, all-time record for enlistments in this group. Although the figures for June are not available as yet, Carver expressed the belief that last month's enlistments would top those of North Carolina's May record breaker.

He attributes the success of the June campaign to the fact that many boys wished to await the closing of school before volunteering for the Navy, thus coming in under the June enlistment program.

Enlistments of groups such as the contingent of sixteen men who left Marion early in June for the Navy are partially responsible for the splendid record made in recruiting by the North Carolina Recruiting Service, according to the Navy recruiter.

Many others have applications pending, he said, and these are being contacted at once in order that they can complete their enlistment as early as possible.

Chief Carver, who succeeds Chief Geo. F. Ball as the Navy recruiting representative for McDowell, Polk, Rutherford and Henderson counties, as well as being recruiter-in-charge of the Asheville station plans weekly visits to Marion and Old Fort. His headquarters while in Marion will be at the City Hall, where he will be on Friday and Saturday of each week, with the exception of this week, when he will be in Marion only on Thursday.

OPA INCREASES COFFEE RATION STARTING JULY 1

The Office of Price Administration has increased the coffee ration to one pound for the three-week period beginning July 1, the largest allowance to be made since coffee rationing was initiated last November.

The same ration also will apply for the following three-week period, ending August 11.

Stamp No. 21 in Ration Book No. 1 becomes valid for one pound of coffee on July 1 and expires on July 21. Stamp No. 22 will be valid from July 22 to Aug. 11. Stamp 24, the current coupon, expires at the end of June.

J. E. McCALL PROMOTED TO RANK OF CORPORAL

Pvt. James E. McCall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. McCall, Ellerbe, N. C., has been promoted to the rank of Corporal, it was announced this week by the Public Relations Office, Hunter Field, Georgia.

Cpl. McCall entered the service at Camp Croft, Spartanburg, S. C., on August 29, 1942. Prior to entering the service he attended North Carolina State College, Raleigh, and was a farm supervisor employed by the Farm Security Administration, Marion, N. C.

His wife, Mrs. Louise Frances McCall, now resides in Savannah, Ga.

Governor Sets Monday, July, 5 Dedication Day

Calls Upon All Loafers In State To Find Work; Neal Named County Chairman.

W. W. Neal, Sr., of Marion has been appointed by Governor Broughton as McDowell county chairman to conduct the state's war on "idlers and loafers."

Earlier the Governor issued a proclamation asserting that "the time has come when every able-bodied person should either be working or fighting," and called upon the state's vagrants to get into "productive work." He set July 5 as North Carolina's "day of dedication."

The county chairmen were asked by the Governor to call on all leaders and civic officials to assist in a program of a patriotic nature with reports relative to conditions within the county and a brief address "about our personal responsibility to the war effort."

The Governor said that a plan of action should be adopted at the meeting and that it might be advisable to establish a permanent committee "to deal with this problem locally during the remainder of the emergency."

Commenting on the Governor's proclamation both Mr. Neal, county chairman, and Mayor Wilkinson said they did not believe conditions are nearly as bad in Marion and McDowell County as in some other sections, but pledged their full cooperation of all local agencies with the government and the manpower commission to round up idlers and put them to work.

"The labor situation will become increasingly acute as more and more men are taken into the armed services," the Governor said. "It is very important that every county develop the ways and means for properly utilizing the entire available labor supply."

The Governor said he had heard from "trustworthy sources" in all sections of North Carolina that thousands of men and women, both white and negro, "are either not working at all, or are working only part time." He added that he would use his emergency wartime powers to see that "these people get into productive work."

Every able-bodied person should feel that "work is no longer merely a privilege or opportunity," the governor said. "It is a high patriotic duty. No man or woman, white or colored, in North Carolina—indeed, in the nation—today has any moral right to loaf or be idle even for a part of the time."

The chief executive declared that the state and nation "are confronted with the most urgent need for productive manpower in their history," and added that farm and industrial manpower are "absolutely indispensable for the protection of the national welfare and for the success of our men in arms."

ALL N. C. SCHOOLS PLAN TO OPERATE FOR 9 MONTHS

Raleigh, June 24. — North Carolina's school units will participate 100 per cent in the optional nine-month school program during the coming year, Nathan Yelton, comptroller for the State Board of Education said today.

Yelton said all city and county units, with one exception, had filed their 1943-44 program plans with his office and that all schools had applied for the additional ninth month authorized by the 1943 General Assembly.

Allotment of teachers, meanwhile, is now being worked out, Yelton said. Original allotments will be tendered schools within the next week. The allotments will be based on essentially the same plan as was used last year.

BOUND OVER TO COURT

HORACE EFFLER and Joe March, both of Old Fort, were given a hearing before United States Commissioner J. L. Nichols here Tuesday on charges of violating the prohibition law and bound over to Federal court in Asheville.