

THE MARION PROGRESS

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

ESTABLISHED 1896

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McDowell Board Sends December Quota To Camp

Forty-Eight Men Sent To Camp Croft Saturday; Ten Transferred Elsewhere.

The McDowell county selective service board sent its December quota of men to Camp Croft last Saturday for their examination for service in the armed forces. There were 48 in the call to leave Marion for the induction center and ten were transferred to other boards for induction.

Those leaving here Saturday morning for Camp Croft were:

Charles William Harding, Robert Newton Gregory, George B. Morgan, Raymond Ray Kelly, Arule Henry Wright, George Loren Paris, Horace Nathan Turner, John A. Lewis Ruff, Glenn A. Morris, Reid Biddix, Charles Reid Taylor, Hoyle Sherman Taylor, Frank P. Cooper, Garlin E. Moody, Summie McDaniels.

Alvin Nix, Ross Robinson, Arthur J. Warren, David H. Killian, James B. Kistler, Ted T. Revis, Hoyt Bridges, Arville Honeycutt, Troy L. Gilliland, Paul H. Williams, Roy Lanning, Troy Lanning, Lewis W. Stevens, Thomas Hammett, Swan B. Ricker, Calvin E. Bradshaw, Carl B. Reynolds, Jr., Charles H. Revis, and James C. McIntyre.

Robert F. Henline, Paul F. Frady, George F. Biggerstaff, Clarence A. Roland, James Y. Banks, Earl Radford, Floyd Wheeler, Frederick J. McAfee, Ralph D. Simmons, James O. Wylie, Howard Buchanan, Arthur Smith, Isaac Vinson Minish, and Edmond Lee Harrison.

Delivered to other boards were: O. Theodore Silver, Burnsville; Glenn C. Pyatt, Wilmington; William H. Case, Marshall; John C. Deaton, Graham; Roosevelt T. Lewis, Brevard; Harry Lee Ollis, Sylva; Arnold M. Reel, Wilmington; Roy C. Ledford, Spruce Pine; Harry Vernon Rogers, Murphy; Harrison B. Mull, Hendersonville.

REV. ROBT. M. VARNER TO ENTER SERVICE SOON AS CHAPLAIN IN ARMY

Old Fort—The Rev. Robt. M. Varner, pastor of the Methodist church of Old Fort, delivered his last sermon to the local congregation at the morning hour last Sunday. He is leaving his charge to attend the Chaplains' school at Harvard university, after which he is to be chaplain in the army.

The Rev. Mr. Varner was appointed to the Old Fort charge in 1940. Under his leadership the local church has made outstanding progress. In addition to his pastoral duties, for the last year, Mr. Varner has led the local Boy Scout troops in their work, and in recognition for his services has received life-membership in the organization.

Mr. Varner graduated from Duke university in 1930, the same year he received his first appointment in the Western North Carolina conference. Since 1935, he has served charges in the vicinity of Asheville. Nov. 8, 1931, Mr. Varner was married to Miss Elizabeth Hawfield of Charlotte, who was at that time superintendent of nurses at the Methodist hospital, Elkin.

Mr. and Mrs. Varner have three children, Robert M. Varner, Jr., David and Mary Dora. Mrs. Varner and the children will reside at their farm near Fort Mill, S. C., to which they are moving this week.

WORD RECEIVED FROM WARREN G. LEDBETTER

Word has been received from Sgt. Warren G. Ledbetter, who was reported missing several months ago. The message was marked "Imperial Japanese Army," and was sent from a Philippine military prison camp. Sgt. Ledbetter was a radio operator and was taken prisoner on Bataan. He had been in the Philippines about four years.

On the card written to his mother, Mrs. P. H. Ledbetter, he wrote that he was in excellent health. He is a grandson of C. Y. Banning.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS SENT TO PATIENTS AT MOORE HOSPITAL

Approximately 8,000 Christmas gifts have been sent to patients of Moore General Hospital by various organizations and individuals of Marion and McDowell county, according to announcement this week by Mrs. J. F. Snipes, McDowell County delegate of the Moore General Hospital council, which is made up of all western North Carolina counties.

The Men's Class of the First Baptist Sunday School, of which D. E. Poole is teacher, contributed \$30.40. This amount was used to purchase one rocking chair, end table, waste basket and card and checker table to add to the sun room they are furnishing, Mrs. Snipes stated.

Circle Number 3 of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the First Methodist Church donated \$15. Mrs. Albert Shiflet's and Mrs. J. A. Wier's art classes made nut cups. Other organizations which helped by sending gifts included:

The Junior Woman's Clubs of Clinchfield and East Marion, the Marion Junior Woman's Club, Clinchfield school, Nebo school, Glenwood school, the service Club of the Pleasant Gardens school, Old Fort school, Wesleyan Service Guild of First Methodist church, Clinchfield and East Marion schools. The First Presbyterian Church donated proceeds from the Crosby-Adams concert in the amount of \$30.50. Gifts were also contributed by the Providence M. E. Church, Greenlee Chapter of the D. A. R., and students of the school rooms of Mrs. Alma Crawford and Mrs. Roy W. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Perkins, and Sammy Homewood.

Proceeds of the Crosby-Adams concert together with the contribution of Methodist Circle No. 3 were used toward paying for the public address system machine, it was explained.

The East Marion Junior Woman's Club also bought a new electric phonograph and records for a ward.

SGT. RUTH COOPER NAMED AIR WACS "MISS VICTORY"

Sgt. Ruth Cooper, former resident of Marion, now in the service of the Air-WAC, has been selected "Miss Victory of Kelly Field," it was announced recently. In revealing the four winners of this coveted title commanders pointed out that the victory quartet represented background and personality possessed by thousands of women throughout the nation. However, because of their own smooth blends of these qualities, the "Miss Victories" were chosen as typical of the Air-WACs who are assisting the army air forces in its vital work at more than 150 fields in all parts of the country.

They were presented formally Monday when, as highlight of the local A. A. E. "salute of WAC" observance, they were introduced at a military ball.

These four Air-WACs, with the khakit-sheathed arms of their male escorts linked symbolically with their own, lead the grand march that launched the gala "Salute the WAC" ball. Behind them in colorful procession followed hundreds of their sister-soldiers and their dates.

The "Miss Victories" were presented to high-ranking officials of the A. A. F. Central Flying Training Command, who congratulated them as representatives of their respective Air-WAC detachments, for gallant contributions to a free tomorrow.

Miss Cooper received a trophy inscribed with her name as a token of the A. A. F.'s nation-wide "thanks" to the WAC. Personal gifts were also awarded.

Sgt. Cooper is 22 years of age and is in charge of officers' rosters in the Kelly officer personnel office. Before entering service she held a position at Belk Broome Company here.

WORD RECEIVED FROM LT. WALLACE WINBORNE

Word has been received here recently from Lt. J. G. J. Wallace Winborne, Jr., U. S. N. R., who is apparently somewhere in the Mediterranean area with overseas fleet, by his father, Judge J. W. Winborne, Sr. The letter stated that he had been assigned to patrol duty.

Lt. Winborne landed November 28.

A GLOBAL CHRISTMAS



Closing Schedule For Christmas To Be Observed Here

Practically all stores, offices and other places of business will take a holiday next Saturday in observance of Christmas.

Saturday will be observed as a holiday by the postoffice, but packages will be delivered on the city routes.

The First National and Marion Industrial banks will observe both Saturday and Monday as holidays. Governor Broughton having proclaimed Monday a banking holiday as well as Christmas day.

The offices in the court house will close at noon Thursday and remain closed until Monday morning. The office of the Town of Marion in the city hall will also be closed from noon Thursday until Monday, it was announced by Mayor Wilkinson.

The War Price and Rationing board will observe Saturday as a holiday.

The beauty parlors will be closed Saturday and Monday for the holidays.

The city schools closed last Friday and will remain closed until Monday, January 3. The county schools closed Tuesday for a two weeks vacation.

Services will be held at St. John's Episcopal church on Christmas day at 10:30 o'clock, and at St. Matthew's Lutheran church at 11 o'clock.

Special Christmas programs were held at several of the churches last Sunday.

CEILING PRICE ON WOOD SET AT \$12.00 A CORD

Forty odd retail dealers in wood for Marion and McDowell county met with the Price Panel of the local office of the War Price and Rationing board to consider the establishment of a ceiling price for wood to be delivered to the consumer in this vicinity. C. M. Simpson, price analyst of the OPA office of Charlotte was present and took part in the discussions.

The wood dealers recommended to Mr. Simpson and the price panel that the price per cord of 128 cubic feet of any and all sorts or types of wood be set at \$12.00. This price includes delivery of the wood to the consumers home.

Any person required to pay a higher price than that set out above should report same to the local Price Panel.

R. C. CHAPMAN DIES IN SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

R. C. Chapman, a former resident of McDowell county, and a brother of Geo. W. Chapman and Mrs. R. H. Bomar of Merion, died at his home in Santa Rosa, California, last Thursday. Mr. Chapman was 77 years of age and is survived by his wife, five sons and two daughters.

BUMPER CORN CROP

Washington, Dec. 18.—The Agriculture Department reported today that this year's bumper corn crop totals 3,076,159,000 bushels and the country's wheat crop is 836,298,000 bushels.

R. L. James And Son Given Award In Safety Contest

The R. L. James and Son Knitting Mills have received a Certificate of Merit for outstanding achievement in Accident Prevention in the second annual state-wide Hosiery Safety Contest, according to announcement from T. A. Wilson, chairman of the North Carolina Industrial Commission.

Over a period of nine months the R. L. James and Son Mill had no lost time accidents in 78,526 man hours worked. Since May 28, 1941, the plant has had a Grade "A" rating by the department of labor of the State of North Carolina.

T. R. Durham, executive secretary of the Southern Hosiery Manufacturers' Association, commented, "I am pleased to note that you have had no lost time accidents during the period covered by the Second Annual State-wide Hosiery Safety Contest. In view of the increased labor turnover with new employees being constantly added I think this is a very fine record."

Mr. Wilson, chairman of the N. C. Industrial Commission, said "Your company made an excellent record, and I am sure you are proud of this achievement."

The background of the certificate bears a cross outlined in green with the wording "Conserving Safety Man Power." It has been framed and will be displayed so that the employees may be constantly reminded that their efforts have been recognized.

SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY AT LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Christmas day service will be held at St. Matthew's Lutheran church on Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. The sermon topic will be "To Bethlehem Hasten."

The topic at the service next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock will be "Earth's Greatest Wonder."

Instruction class will meet Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, and Waltham League on Sunday evening at 6:30.

The Lutheray Laymen's League will meet Monday night at 8 o'clock.

RED CROSS GOAL IN NEXT DRIVE IS \$200,000,000

Washington, Dec. 18.—The American Red Cross will open its third war fund campaign next March with a record goal of \$200,000,000.

Announcing the 1944 financial objective today, Chairman Norman H. Davis announced that nearly \$140,000,000 will be required for services to the armed forces and the remainder for local work of the 3,756 chapters.

SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS DAY AT 10:30

Rev. Chas G. Leavell, rector of Grace Episcopal church in Morganton, will conduct services at St. John's Episcopal church here next Saturday morning, Christmas day, at 10:30 o'clock.

The services next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock will be conducted by Billie Bolton, ministerial student at Lenoir Rhyne College.

Army Requests 2 Million More Men By July 1

Washington, Dec. 18.—Two million more men must be drafted by next July, selective service declared tonight, and 1,000,000 of them are to be taken from the fewer than 5,000,000 draftable fathers still with their families as of Dec. 1.

The fathers to be called are to come from 427,088 presently reclassified to 1-A but not yet called and 4,483,604 still in class 3-A but subject to reclassification.

While this number would seem ample to meet military needs, the selective service disclosed that about two out of every three fathers who lost their 3-A status in October and November had been granted "necessary man" deferments in farming or industry by their local draft boards.

Near Limits By Summer Should this rate of deferment for fathers continue, some officials said privately, the selective service will begin to approach the bottom of the father-barrel by mid-summer.

One factor which may slow the rate of father inductions is the proposed elimination of industrial deferments for non-fathers between 18 and 22. The same treatment also has been proposed for those between 22 and 25. This is favored by draft officials but has not yet been adopted as a policy. (The army has instituted it for the civilian personnel in the 18-22 age bracket.)

Selective service headquarters reported that local boards have been cutting down on deferments for non-fathers, whittling 662,175 non-parents off the list of 2-A's and 2-M's in October and November.

Million Are Deferred A total of 1,418,333 pre-Pearl Harbor fathers were classified out of the 3-A group in the two months following October 1, when dependency ceased to be a cause for deferment. Nearly one million of them, however, obtained occupational deferments in agriculture or other essential work, it was reported.

The numbers of fathers actually inducted in the two months boiled down to 50,465, selective service said.

"This clearly demonstrates that local boards are liberally deferring fathers engaged in war production or war-supporting activities on the grounds of occupation, even after dependency status is no longer cause for their deferment," the report declared.

The desired strength of the armed services next July 1 is 11,300,000, including WACs and WAVES, selective service said.

FOUR NEW MEMBERS ARE ENROLLED BY V. F. W. POST

The meeting of post 2865, V. F. W., held at the Community building Sunday was well attended, Post Commander T. P. Gravette announced.

Four new members were enrolled and all books were brought up to date, it was stated.

A committee composed of Jas. P. Sisk, T. W. Riddle and G. Edison Houck was appointed to secure a place for regular meetings.

Clinton B. Landis was elected post adjutant, and T. W. Riddle, post quartermaster.

Post Commander Gravette stated he was in receipt of a letter from A. C. Ingram, adjutant quartermaster, suggesting that he consider the organization of an auxiliary to complete the set-up. This matter will be given consideration later.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, December 28, at 8 p. m. in the P. O. S. of A. Hall in the Hawkins building.

All members are urged to attend as the 1944 objectives will be discussed.

LAST FRIDAY WAS THE COLDEST DAY OF YEAR

The coldest weather of the season was experienced here last week. The low reading Friday morning was 8 degrees, setting a record for the minimum this season. The high for the day was 45. The low reading Thursday morning was 12 degrees, with 34 high. A low of 15 and high of 55 was recorded for Saturday with 20 and 55 for Sunday.

Court Of Honor Gives Awards, Merit Badges

Twelve Advanced In Rank; Snoddy Succeeds Laughlin As Vice-President.

The Boy Scout court of honor held at the First Methodist church here last Friday night was opened with prayer by Dr. D. E. Camak, followed with the repeating of the Scout oath led by R. M. Schiele, Scout executive.

After announcements Scouts were advanced in rank as follows:

Tenderfoot—Jack Sherrill and James Austin, troop 2, Marion; Jack Wingo, Sewell Laughridge and John Poteat, troop 6, Marion; Paul Nanne, Bobby Craig, Jimmy Wise, Mack Hensley and Harold McCullum, troop 1, Glenwood.

First Class Rank: Dan Noblitt, troop 1, Old Fort.

Life Rank: Bill Giles, troop 6, Marion.

Merit Badges

Astronomy: Guy Kirby, 3rd, troop 6, Marion.

Athletics: Guy Kirby, 3rd, troop 6, Marion.

Carpentry: Clarence Morgan, troop 1, Glenwood; Bobby Harding, troop 1, Old Fort.

Handicraft: Herbert Eplee and Guy Morgan, troop 1, Glenwood; Bill Giles, troop 1, Marion; Dan Noblitt, troop 1, Old Fort.

Pioneering: Bill Giles, troop 6, Marion.

Poultry Keeping: Billy Bradley, troop 1, Nebo.

Following the court of honor the Scoutmasters and committeemen of the McDowell county, held a short session and elected John M. Snoddy as vice-president of Scouts for this county for the year 1944. Mr. Snoddy succeeds Jas. B. Laughlin who has served as vice-president for a number of years.

LIEUT. ARNDT, WHO SANK 2 JAP SHIPS, PAYS VISIT TO RELATIVES IN NEWTON

Lt. Augustus L. Arndt, marine flying hero, who is a nephew of Mrs. C. Y. Banning of Marion, is back home in Newton for his first visit home since going to the Southwest Pacific and Guadalcanal area in September, 1942.

Lt. Arndt, a Marine corps pilot and holder of the Distinguished Flying Cross, says the Marines on Bougainville and Tarawa added some glorious pages to the annals of the corps.

Lt. Arndt is one of the few bomber pilots credited with sinking two Jap ships—a destroyer leader and a cargo vessel.

Braving heavy anti-aircraft fire, Lt. Arndt dove his Dauntless bomber to within 2,000 feet of the destroyer before releasing his bomb. The ship, leading a task force of ten destroyers bringing reinforcements to Guadalcanal early this year, was attacked as it nosed out of Kula Gulf, between Kolombangara and New Guinea Islands.

Sometime later Lt. Arndt, participating in the first dive bomber raid with 1,000-pound bombs on the Japs' Kahili Harbor, hit a cargo vessel amidship. It sank almost immediately.

Lt. Arndt took part in the last dive bomber raids on Munda and dropped a 1,000-pound bomb on an anti-aircraft gun position in the opening of the Allied offensive on the Japs' Vila Plantation airfield on Kolombangara Island, Solomons.

Pulling out of a dive after scoring a near miss on an enemy transport Jan. 23, in Kula Gulf, Lt. Arndt was attacked by twelve float Zeros, Jap fighter planes equipped with pontoons. He gained altitude then nosed his plans down in a steep dive. His radio gunner, Staff Sergeant Walter Kiddon, U. S. Marine Corps, of Chicago, Ill., sprayed the attackers with nearly 300 rounds of machine gun ammunition. The Marines escaped unhurt, but their plans was riddled with bullets.

Male arrests declined 29.3 per cent during the first half of 1943 in the United States.