

# THE MARION PROGRESS

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

ESTABLISHED 1896

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1944

VOL. XLIX—NO. 3

## Opening Date Marion Schools Set For Sep. 14

### Tentative Date Set By Board But May Be Deferred Pending Polio Situation.

In a meeting of the Marion City School Board held in the office of the superintendent last Tuesday evening the opening date of schools was tentatively set for September 14. In setting this date the school board made it clear that the date set was merely tentative and that if the epidemic of poliomyelitis had not come under complete control by September 14 that the opening of school would be further deferred. In other words, the city schools will not open until the local Board of Health, the State Board of Health and the State Board of Education agree that there is no further danger from the epidemic of polio. The action of the City School Board means that school will not open before September 14 and that it will not open then unless the polio situation is entirely satisfactory.

The age of beginning pupils was also discussed by the board. It was pointed out by superintendent Hugh Beam that the law of this State provided that a child must have reached its 6th birthday on or before the first day of October. The school board passed a resolution that there should be strict adherence to this statute.

Among the other items of business that were transacted by the school board Mrs. Mae Ross Alley was elected to the position of grammar grade teacher in the city schools and Mrs. Bernice Crisp was elected to the colored faculty of the Hudgins High School.

## JAMES BYRD AWARDED SILVER PILOT'S WINGS

Flight Officer James S. Byrd, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Byrd, received his silver pilot's wings and a commission in the United States Army at graduating exercises at Brooks Field Texas on August 4. Flight Officer Byrd will be remembered here by his many friends as a recent graduate of Marion High School where he was an outstanding pupil and star athlete for several years. During his last year in high school he was a member of the Marion High School famous football squad which won the Western Conference championship for the year 1942. Flight Officer Byrd excelled at end during that season and caught a number of passes in the end zone which spelled defeat for the enemy.

## MCDOWELL COUNTY MEN DRAWN FOR JURY DUTY

Jurors for the September term of McDowell County superior court were drawn at the regular meeting of the board of county commissioners Monday. The jurors drawn for the two weeks term are as follows:

First week: J. B. Walker, Arthur Gardin, Worth Frady, J. E. Lackey, J. S. Setzer, W. H. Hennessee, R. G. Lambert, T. H. Smoot, Dan Toney, Ben H. Seals, J. R. Reynolds, B. B. Emory, Glenn Davis, Dexter E. Marlowe, Stacey L. Noblett, Gaston Toney, J. F. Copeland, Ben H. Carver, John Biddix, V. L. Knupp, Vernon T. Eckerd, M. B. Patton, T. Carl Simmons, C. Y. Banning, Carl Edwards, J. A. Yelton, Howard Lawing, Clayton Randolph, J. E. Lawing, Will M. Hollifield, A. Y. Lytle, Wesley Lewis, S. R. Hawkins, Jack Baxter, C. R. Hester, H. E. Green, L. C. Elkin, Fred Cline, E. V. Wright.

Second week: Bruce Cowan, J. M. Atkins, Jesse Brown, W. S. Sisk, Chas. P. Lytle, Harvey L. Morgan, Fred G. Brown, W. C. Macon, Baxter Lewis, Harvey C. Hollifield, Joe Giles, B. C. Wilson, C. M. Jolly, E. S. McCurry, Duard Hefner, A. H. Mitchem, Joe Denny, W. J. Ballew, A. J. Wilkerson, James Padgiam, R. W. Silver, W. F. McCurry, William J. Wilkinson, J. A. Freeman, Joe Mosteller, J. H. Bowman, Julius F. Parker, Jesse Williams, James H. Hensley, S. G. Buckner.

## MARION MERCHANTS WILL MEET TONIGHT

The first meeting of the fiscal year of the Marion Merchants Association will be held Thursday evening, August 10, at 8 o'clock in the fireman's room in the city hall.

A pleasant surprise is being planned for the members and each is expected to be present. After the meeting refreshments will be served.

Thirty-seven new members have been added to the association this month, it is announced, and a large attendance is expected.

## JUNIOR CLUB RAISES \$600 IN POLIO DRIVE

Due to the fact that poliomyelitis is prevalent in McDowell county and in surrounding counties, particularly in the Piedmont section of this state, the Junior Woman's Club of Marion instituted a campaign for funds to be used in the erection and construction of a permanent hospital building to be used as a polio clinic located at Hickory, North Carolina. This hospital is to care for patients afflicted with polio from this county and surrounding territory.

According to an announcement made public by Mrs. Arthur H. Ditt, president of the local Junior Woman's Club, this club was responsible for raising \$600.00 to be contributed to this cause last week. On Wednesday of last week through Saturday, the young women of this organization displayed a "March of Dimes" board on Main street for the purpose of receiving contributions for this work. Mrs. Ditt stated that the public was very generous in its contributions to this worthy cause, and that the members of the Junior Woman's Club wishes to express their appreciation for the splendid spirit that prompted the giving of the amount of money set out above.

The president of the Junior Woman's Club stated that she also wished to express the appreciation of her organization to Drexel Furniture Company for taking the time and effort of making the "March of Dimes" board which was used in this work. Public acknowledgment is made to Jack Reynolds who made the posters that were used in the display on the "March of Dimes" board. Mrs. Ditt also said that her club appreciated the time given by its own members and other public spirited women in conducting this work during the past week.

## QUOTA OF GASOLINE REPORTED LIMITED

The local War Price and Rationing Board wishes to announce to the public that its quota of hard shipped gasoline is limited, and that it cannot issue gasoline from this small reserve except in cases where actual hardship will be experienced unless extra gasoline is allotted.

The local office of the War Price and Rationing board states that regulations do not permit rationing authorities to issue gasoline for the purpose of carrying a patient to a doctor, or visiting a doctor, if the patient is physically able to ride a bus or train or to use other means of transportation.

Local doctors are requested to advise their patients of this situation whenever the need arises and to furnish their patients with a statement certifying that the patient needs further medical treatment and that the patient is not able to ride by bus or train, or that travel by public conveyance is not available.

## WESTMORELAND BUYS COLUMN APARTMENTS

The "Column Apartments," formerly known as the W. T. Morgan residence, on South Main street, have been purchased by S. J. Westmoreland from the Morgan estate. Mr. Westmoreland stated yesterday.

The property will be converted into a funeral home by the first of next year, Mr. Westmoreland stated.

## DR. D. E. CAMAK WILL PREACH SUNDAY

Dr. D. E. Camak, pastor of the First Methodist Church, has returned from the Pastor's conference at Lake Junaluska and will be in his pulpit Sunday morning.

## McDowell Goes Far Over Top In Bond Sales

### Final Report Shows Bond Quota Exceeded By \$94, 263 In Fifth Loan Drive.

The total sale of war bonds in McDowell county during the Fifth War Loan drive was \$650,910.00, exceeding the quota of \$446,000.00 by \$204,910.00, it was announced this week by J. F. Snipes and J. N. Morris, war loan chairmen for this county, on the basis of official tabulation by the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond.

The county's E bond sales amounted to \$276,263.00, or 152 per cent, exceeding McDowell's quota of \$182,000 by \$94,263.00.

Region 10, comprising the 15 Western North Carolina counties, sold 180 per cent of its \$8,288,000 quota, of \$14,961,675 worth of bonds, it is announced.

The region also went over the top with its E bond sales, rolling up a total of \$4,012,373 compared with a quota of \$3,504,000.

## MCCORMICK REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION

Pvt. John W. McCormick, 23, has been missing in action in Italy since July 13, according to word received from the War Department by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John W. McCormick, of Old Fort.

Pvt. McCormick enlisted in November, 1942 and received his training at Camp White, Oregon. He had served overseas since May, 1944.

He attended Cross Mill school and was employed by the McDowell Furniture Company, now known as the Otis L. Brodyhill Furniture Company.

The McCormicks also have two other sons in service. They are Pvt. Donald McCormick of Camp Davis, and Pvt. Clifford McCormick of Wheeling, Ga.

## W. K. KEETER IS NAMED BUSINESS MGR. OF N. C. S. D.

W. K. Keeter, of Morganton, was named business manager of the North Carolina School for the Deaf at a meeting of the directors held in Morganton last week. Mr. Keeter will succeed Mrs. A. S. Baron who will enter Red Cross service. Mr. Keeter is a brother of Eugene Keeter, of Marion, and a former resident of Marion.

## SINGING CONVENTION FOR AUGUST CANCELLED

The annual Burke - McDowell County Singing convention scheduled to be held in Marion on Sunday, August 27, has been cancelled because of the continued spread of the infantile paralysis in this area, it is announced by J. C. Burnett.

Back the attack. Buy War Bonds and Stamps.

## Motorists Are Asked To Use Care In Applying For Gasoline

Carelessness of motorists in handling renewal applications for gasoline rations is greatly cutting down the efficiency of the service which would be rendered them otherwise and is causing much unnecessary work at the local War Price and Rationing board, the public was again reminded yesterday.

One very important thing for motorists to remember, it was said, is to make application at least a week before the indicated expiration of their rations. These renewal applications should be made by mail and should have attached tire inspection records, regardless of the fact that periodic tire inspections are no longer necessary.

It is very important that the application be completely filled out. Many applicants only sign their names; others completely fill out the applications except for providing signatures. The rationing board

## Reduction Made In County Tax Rate Next Year

### McDowell's Tax Rate Next Year To Be \$1.20 On \$100 Valuation Of Property.

The Board of County Commissioners in session Monday set the county rate for this year at \$1.20 as compared with a rate of \$1.25 for the past year.

In addition to reducing the tax rate five cents on the \$100 valuation this year the commissioners during the year just ended were able to meet all obligations of the county and at the same time reduce the bonded indebtedness. Economy in the management of the county's business during the year made it possible to meet all obligations, pay the bonds due and reduce the tax rate.

The new rate is based on the approximate valuation of \$17,735,306.

Broken down the rate of \$1.20 on each \$100 property valuation was distributed as follows:

General county fund, 15 cents; general county health fund, 3 cents; general county poor fund, 5 cents; old age assistance fund, 5 cents; aid to dependent children fund, 2 cents; special expense fund, 4 cents; county schools, current expense, 6 cents; Marion school capital outlay, 1 cent; school debt service, 23 cents; highway debt service, 42 cents; funding debt service, 4 cents; court house debt service, 8 cents; county school capital outlay, 2 cents.

## MCDOWELL MEN INDUCTED AT CAMP CROFT TUESDAY

Seventeen McDowell County men were sent to Camp Croft for induction into the armed forces by the local draft board Tuesday morning. They were:

Lloyd Clownie Ollis, William Francis Nichols, Albert Homer Morgan, Dean Clay Greer, Samuel Lillburn Stone, Jr., Charles Floyd Ledbetter, Robert Neal Elliott, James Edwin Holland, Daniel Webster, Frank Biddix Dysart, Donald Lee Anderson, Linzie Lawrence Hollifield, Cecil Fred Moody, Loyd Alvin Clark, Leonard Emmett Washburn, James William Condrey and Clarence B. Smith.

## TIRE INSPECTORS ARE LISTED BY WPR BOARD

Because of a number of requests coming to the local office of War Price and Rationing board concerning tire inspections and the names of local tire inspectors, the following announcement is made:

"Official tire inspection stations in Marion and McDowell County are listed as follows: Young's Esso Station, Sullivan's Gulf Station, Raymond Robinson, E. D. Ricks, George S. Crawford, Wayne's Gulf Service, Balweg Motor Company and Snipes Motor Company."

## City Bus Service To Begin Next Saturday

W. M. Shelton and L. T. Hollis, of Greenville, S. C., who were recently granted a franchise to operate the city bus service in Marion, were here Tuesday making arrangements to begin the service on next Saturday. The firm will be known as the Marion City Lines.

The company, it was understood, will operate several buses to East Marion, Clinchfield, Cross Mill and West Marion.

It was stated that fare will not be over ten cents a trip and a regular schedule will be operated. Plans will be made to have regular bus stops.

Initial trips will be made Friday to try out a tentative schedule.

## CAR POOLING MEANS SAVING IN MATERIAL, FUEL AND MANPOWER

Car pooling is mandatory for all "B" and "C" card-holders who use their automobiles for home-to-work driving.

Yet today the average automobile operated by the so-called "white collar" worker is carrying fewer than two persons per car. Among industrial workers using cars for home-to-work driving, the average is over three, due largely to the work of Plant Transportation Committees.

A recent government survey showed that only 16 percent of all automobile operators belonged to car pools. The survey also revealed that more than half of all car operators are not familiar with the car-pooling requirements for "B" and "C" card holders.

Industrial workers, through their Plant Transportation Committees, are doing a much better job of car pooling than office and business workers. The fact that they are able to do such an excellent job is ample indication that white collar workers could do it too.

Inertia and lack of understanding of the desperate need for gasoline conservation are the worst enemies of effective car sharing. The most common excuses for failure to get into a car pool are these:

Drivers claim that none of their neighbors goes near the place where they work. Others who only occasionally work overtime claim that they cannot be tied down to a car-pool schedule because of irregular hours. Most of these people can work out a car-pooling arrangement if they are willing to make the necessary adjustments.

Today it is estimated that the national car-pooling average on home-to-work driving is between 2 and 2½ persons per car. If this average can be raised to between 3 and 3½ persons, one-third fewer cars would be in constant use. The resulting savings in material, fuel and manpower would be of tremendous value to the war effort.

## SGT. MILLER TAKES PART IN AERIAL BOMBARDMENT OF JAPANESE NAVAL BASE

Staff Sergeant William F. Miller, assistant engineer, of Marion, was a member of Lieutenant Stubblefield's crew that participated recently in the first daylight aerial assault by land-based bombers against the key Japanese air and naval base of Yap, 300 miles southeast of Palau between the Philippines and the Mariana group.

Smashing the enemy airfield, where Japanese aircraft are staged enroute to Guam, our big Liberators destroyed 18 enemy aircraft on the ground and damaged ten. Fires were observed burning four hours after the attack, it is stated.

## MCDOWELL MEN EXAMINED AT CAMP CROFT TUESDAY

Sixteen men were sent to Camp Croft for physical examination for military service by the McDowell County Draft Board Tuesday. They were:

Hiram Jacob Hunter, Ruben Hutson McKinney, Albert Leon Finley, Ransom Robertson, Billy Ray Lewis, Marion Marrit Hicks, Kenneth Waters, William Carley Arrowood, Ralph Roscoe Hensley, Dean Oakland Poteat, John Bunyan Walker, Jr., Earl Junior Webb, Jack Bruce Burleson, Banks Tom Mathis, Lewis Glenn Jones and Bruce Franklin.

## Goal Exceeded In Emergency Polio Drive Here

### Total Contributions From Mc- Dowell Sent To Foundation Amount To \$1,173.65.

In cooperation with a request from the McDowell County Infantile Paralysis committee that \$500 be raised to be sent to the Infantile Paralysis Foundation, the citizens of Marion and McDowell County have contributed a total of \$1,173.65, exceeding the goal by \$673.65. The request stated, however, that at least \$500 was needed, and the committee is grateful for the liberal response of the public.

Members of the Junior Woman's Club took a leading part in the drive by displaying a "March of Dimes" board on Main street several days last week for the purpose of receiving donations and other contributions. Mr. Morris' report at noon yesterday showed \$1,173.65 as the total donations from this county.

Emergency plants for the treatment of Infantile Paralysis are located at Gastonia, Hickory and Charlotte. Patients from McDowell County may be treated at these hospitals without charge and some are already receiving treatment at these centers.

## PORTER FORTUNE OF OLD FORT PRESENTED BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Chapel Hill, Ia. (AP) Porter L.

Porter L. Fortune, a resident of Gastonia, S. C., has been awarded the bronze star medal for "heroic and meritorious service" in action as commanding officer of an escort vessel engaged in convey duty in the Pacific.

The citation given Fortune revealed that the convey of which his ship was a member was "attacked on three separate occasions by formations of Japanese dive bombers and fighters." Porter was described as having "skillfully maneuvered his ship to protect the convey and assisted in putting up a heavy barrage of anti-aircraft fire which resulted in preventing the enemy from carrying out a full scale attack. Through his skillful and courageous efforts, no casualties or material damages were suffered."

After winning his A. B. degree at the university in 1941 he did graduate work toward a master's degree in history at Emory university. He entered service by enlistment in the navy in April, 1942.

## LAUGHRIDGE AND ALLEY GRADUATE FROM PILOT SCHOOL AT MOODY FIELD

Former Aviation Cadets Morris S. Laughridge and William R. Alley, Jr., both of Marion, were recently graduated from AAF Pilot School at Moody Field, Ga., and appointed flight officers with the rating of Army pilot.

As members of Class 44-G, they will be assigned to piloting multi-engine aircraft—such as light, medium, or heavy bombers; transport or cargo planes.

## POSTAL RECEIPTS SHOW SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE

The receipts at the Marion post office for the month of July showed an increase of \$397.56 over July, 1943, according to report filed by Postmaster Barron Caldwell.

The report shows that the receipts for July, 1944, were \$4,168.92, as compared with \$3,770.36 for the same month of the previous year.

## THREE CASES OF POLIO REPORTED DURING WEEK

Three new cases of infantile paralysis have been reported in this county since the middle of last week, Miss Sadie Reid, quarantine officer, announced Tuesday.

No definite number of cases reported prior to that time can be ascertained as there has not been a quarantine officer for several weeks.