

# THE MARION PROGRESS

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

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## Auto Inspection Lane For Marion To Open April 21

The motor vehicle inspection lane will be opened here in April, according to word received this week from the Motor Vehicle Department's Mechanical Inspection Division, Raleigh.

The lane will be opened in Marion from April 21-23 for public owned vehicles and orientation period and will be open to the public April 24-29.

Under the Motor Vehicle Mechanical program, each motor vehicle registered in North Carolina must be inspected once during 1948 and twice a year thereafter.

The inspection program calls for the establishment and full-time operation of 36 lanes throughout the state. Each lane is portable and will be transported from place to place in order to reach all vehicle owners. The schedules for these lanes take them through July 1.

Lane 4 will cover Henderson, Polk, McDowell and Rutherford counties. It will open in Rutherfordton on February 23, in Tryon, March 22, Hendersonville, March 31, and will be brought to Marion on April 21.

## BOY SCOUTS RECEIVE AWARDS AT HONOR COURT

The Eagle Scout badge was presented to Harry S. Brown of troop 1, Ashford, at the McDowell County Boy Scout Court of Honor in the Methodist church Friday night.

The Bronze Eagle Scout Palm was awarded to Bobby Harris, troop 5, Marion, and Star Scout ranks were awarded to Ronald Ross, of troop 6, and William Dean Noblitt, troop 1, Old Fort.

Scouts were advanced in rank as follows:

Tenderfoot: Cecil McCormick, troop 1, Marion; Floyd Brooks, Earl Houck, Donald Johnson and Bobby Morris, all of troop 6, Marion.

Second class: Johnnie Pyatt, troop 5; William Wright, troop 5, and Bobby Johnson, troop 6, Marion.

First class: Jimmy Rader, troop 4; Franklin Ward, troop 5.

Jimmy Laughridge, troop 6, Marion, was passed as a Tenderfoot Air Scout candidate.

### MERIT BADGES

Athletics: Eugene Hawkins, troop 5.

Carpentry: Bill Suttles, troop 6.

Cooking: Gene Cross, troop 6, Wayne and David Patterson, troop 4.

Dog Care: Bobby Harris, troop 5.

Firemanship: Arnold Pyatt and Ronald Ross, troop 6.

First Aid: Will Wilson and Bill Bradford, troop 6.

Gardening: Franklin Ward, Bobby Bright and Joseph Buchanan, troop 5.

Life Saving: Dan Noblitt and Eugene Suttles, troop 1, Old Fort.

Mechanical Drawing: Bennie Byers, Jr., troop 6.

Music: Bennie Byers and Hubert Martin, troop 6.

Pathfinding: Arnold Pyatt and

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## Infantile Paralysis Campaign Contributions Total \$3,254.31

Contributions to the McDowell County Infantile Paralysis campaign totaled \$3,254.31 at noon yesterday, Mrs. Robert Hervey, campaign chairman, announced.

Although this total is still \$677.69 short of the \$3,932.00 goal, a number of committees have not made their donations yet.

The campaign this year has been severely hampered by adverse weather conditions and many community chairmen were unable to make canvasses according to schedule. This situation was true in many sections of the state and the closing date was extended twice by Governor Gregg Cherry.

## CAMPAIGN POSTER FOR 1948 FUND



Steven Dohanos, the Westport, Connecticut, artist whose work appears frequently on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post and other magazines, designed the 1948 Red Cross Fund poster. In it he has reflected the community spirit of small towns throughout America.

## FIRE LAST SUNDAY AT KNITTING MILL

The Marion Fire Department was called to the Marion Knitting Mills on West Court street last Sunday morning when a blaze started in the knitting room. The fire is believed to have started about 7:30 a. m.

Flames climbed the walls and entered a stock room above. Part of the fire was extinguished by the sprinkler system, but the stock of hosiery was badly damaged by the water.

No estimate has been made of the damage, Albert Neal said yesterday.

## Marion High Band To Present Concert

The Marion High School Band will be presented in concert on March 11, Bernard Hirsch, director, announced Tuesday.

The 61-piece band will present numbers which will later be played at the State Music Contest which will be held in Greensboro the latter part of April. The band will not be required to participate in the District Contest in Asheville on March 19, but will go straight to the State Contest as a result of receiving a One Rating in the State Contest last year.

The complete program for the concert will be announced next week, Hirsch said.

## Mills Addresses The Rotary Club

Charles Mills, guest speaker at the meeting of the Marion Rotary club last Friday, discussed the possibility of promoting the development of hobbies among high school students during the summer vacation.

He spoke particularly of the value of a photographers' club as a constructive pastime.

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## Superior Court Ended Friday

The February term of McDowell County Superior Court for the trial of civil cases was ended here last Friday. Judge George B. Patton presided.

In the case of Whitman vs. Elliott, et al, involving a right of way, the plaintiff was awarded a \$50 verdict.

In the case of Gilkey vs. Blanton, the sale of the property was not confirmed and the court ordered the resale of the property in parts. Thus, the business buildings and the residence may be sold individually or collectively.

## Republicans Will Hold Convention Here On March 16th

C. M. Pool, chairman of the McDowell County Republican executive committee, announces that the Republican county convention will be held at the court house in Marion on Saturday afternoon, March 6, at 2:30 o'clock, for the purpose of electing a county chairman and other officers and to elect delegates to the district conventions and state convention.

Precinct meetings will be held at the various polling places in the county on Friday, March 5, at 2:30 p. m. to elect delegates and alternates to the county convention, it was announced.

## Funeral Home Moved To New Location

The Westmoreland-Hawkins Funeral Home has been moved from West Court street to 220 South Main street, formerly the Column Apartment building.

The addition at the rear of the building is nearing completion and will provide for a four-car garage on the ground floor with space above to display caskets.

S. J. Westmoreland, manager, and Howard T. Hawkins, embalmer, have announced plans to make extensive alterations to the building and surroundings within the next few weeks.

## Dr. Robert McCall Will Practice Dentistry Here

Dr. Robert S. McCall, of Forest City, has purchased the dental practice of the late Dr. M. H. Hewitt and began his practice here this week in the offices formerly occupied by Dr. Hewitt.

Dr. McCall is the son of Dr. Charles S. McCall, of Forest City, and former resident of McDowell county. He is a graduate of the Atlanta Southern Dental College. He served four years in the U. S. Army and was Major at the time he received his discharge. For the past 18 months he has been associated with his father in the practice of dentistry at Forest City.

Dr. McCall will retain the services of Miss Ruby Lewis as dental assistant.

Dr. and Mrs. McCall have one son two weeks old.

## EAST MARION TPA WILL MEET TODAY

The East Marion Parent-Teacher association will meet at four o'clock Thursday afternoon, February 19, at the school, according to announcement yesterday.

The seventh grade pupils will present a program entitled, "Honoring Washington."

## Red Cross Campaign Launched This Week

Work on the 1948 Red Cross Campaign began this week when the Special Gifts and Industrial plants committees began their canvass, Dula Hawkins, county chairman, announced.

The Industrial plants committee, headed by Oliver Cross, will make a canvass of workers in industrial plants so that they may authorize payroll deductions as their contributions in the campaign. The donations may then be received on schedule.

J. E. Neal, Jr., who heads the Special Gifts committee, began a canvass this week.

Hawkins has set March 10 as the date he hopes to reach the \$4,400 quota set for this county. Last year the quota was reached during the second week of March.

Mrs. Mary Frances Lockhart was named this week to head the residential committee.

## Old Fort School To Reopen Today

The Old Fort school will reopen today and the schools in the county system will then be operating 100 per cent.

All schools in the county system except the Old Fort unit had resumed operations Tuesday although attendance in most of the schools was less than 50 per cent, N. F. Stepp, county superintendent, said. He attributed some of the absences to the fact that possibly some of the pupils did not yet know school had reopened.

The schools were closed January 26 because of the condition of rural roads following the snowfall. North Cove school reopened February 4 and was closed again the following Monday after a heavy snow made the roads almost impassable.

Today will be the first time since January 26 when all schools will be operating.

## DR. JOHN HOYLE, JR. TO PREACH SUNDAY AT BETHLEHEM

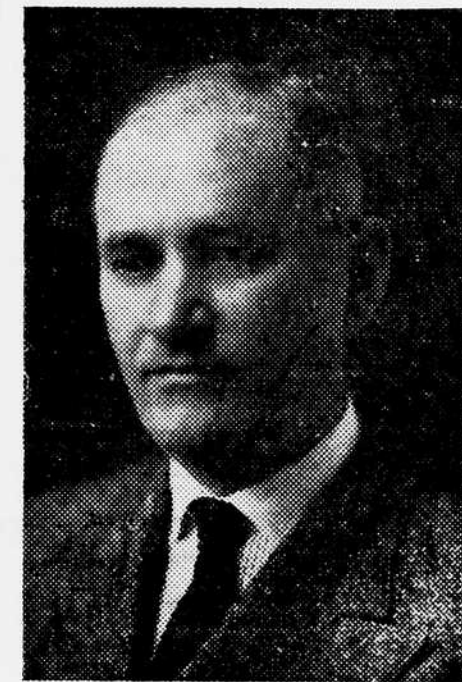
Dr. John Hoyle, Jr., superintendent of the Marion Methodist District will preach at Bethlehem Methodist church next Sunday morning, at 11 o'clock, it has been announced by the pastor. Members of all churches on the Old Fort circuit are invited to attend the service.

Also on February 22, at 2:30 in the afternoon, all members of the quarterly conference for Old Fort circuit are urged to be present at a joint session of quarterly conferences for the churches and charges in McDowell county, to be held in First Methodist church, Marion. In addition to the necessary amount of quarterly conference business to be transacted, some important phases of Christian Education in the local churches will be presented and discussed by various speakers. Any interested persons are welcome.

## Charlotte Tech To Meet Rippers

The battle between the Big Town and the little dwelling will take place tomorrow night at 7 o'clock when the Rippers of Marion high will meet the Hungry Wolves of Charlotte Tech High. In their first meeting, January 29, the Rippers were lucky to win a 29-27 game due to the over aggressiveness of a Charlotte boy who touched the basket when the ball was in the air—thus giving the Rippers the winning points. The Tech Wolves haven't forgotten this and are out to take the Rippers' scalp. Led by Shrine Footballer, John Hopkins, the Tech Highs present a great passing and defensive team. Since beginning relations with Charlotte, the Rippers have a 2-1 lead in games.

To offset the Hopkins scoring threat—Coach Ditt will depend on Frank Pace—outstanding point maker. In their last meeting Pace collected 12 points—Hopkins 10. A big battle is expected when these two boys get together.



DR. GUY SMITH KIRBY

## FUNERAL RITES HELD MONDAY FOR DR. KIRBY

Funeral services were held at the First Presbyterian church here Monday for Dr. Guy Smith Kirby who died early Sunday morning in Norburn Hospital, Asheville.

He was born in Charlotte April 24, 1874, and graduated from Davidson college, later receiving his medical training at the University of Richmond. He had practiced medicine here for more than 50 years.

He was married to Miss Bonnie Neal, who died in 1942. Later he married Miss Bonnie Marie Burgin of Marion.

At the time of his death, Dr. Kirby was serving his 30th year as surgeon for the Southern railway and his 20th year as county physician of McDowell county.

He had served as ruling elder of the First Presbyterian church of Marion; was president of the Tenth District Medical society; was past master of the Mystic Tie Lodge, A.F. and A.M.; chairman of the board of State Hospital at Morganton for 20 years; chairman of the board of trustees of the Marion General hospital for many years.

While a student at Davidson he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity and a star baseball pitcher for Birmingham in the Southern league. Although he could have been associated with major leagues, he gave up his baseball career to devote his time to his medical studies.

Surviving are the widow; one son, Guy S. Kirby, Jr., of Marion; one daughter, wife of Judge J. Will Pless, Jr., of Marion; one brother, K. A. Kirby of Raleigh; one sister, Mrs. J. H. Buckley of Morganton; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

## Tuesday Warmest Day Since Last November

The mercury rose to 67 degrees here Tuesday, the highest reading since November 24 when the maximum reading at the local weather bureau was 69. The blue skies and warm sunshine were a marked contrast to the previous Tuesday when a 7 1/2 inch snow covered the ground.

If spring continues on its way as fast as it has during the past week, winter will soon be over. Maximum readings since last Thursday have stepped up a little each day. Thursday 46, Friday 47, Saturday 55 and Sunday 56. Monday dropped back to 55, but only in preparation for the highest temperature of winter on Tuesday.

## McDowell County Boy Scout Drive Scheduled To End This Week

### BANKS TO CLOSE ALL DAY MONDAY

The First National and Marion Industrial Banks will observe the Monday after Washington's Birthday as a holiday, it is announced.

Both banks will be closed all day February 23.

It is estimated that the common cold and its complications is responsible for from 40 to 50 per cent of all days lost from work in the United States.

## GORDON EXPLAINS PROPOSED TAX AT KIWANIS MEET

### Kiwanians Urged To Support Tax Proposal At Special Election To Be Held April 6

Roy Davis, program chairman for the month of February for the local Kiwanis club, presented as guest speaker to the meeting Tuesday evening, Kiwanian M. W. Gordon, Jr. In presenting the speaker, Davis stated that the week of February 15 was being observed as National Parent-Teacher Week and that Mr. Gordon was president of the Marion High School Parent-Teacher Association.

In addressing the club, Gordon stated that his topic was "Youth—Its Future," but that it was necessary to confine his remarks to one phase of the topic. It was pointed out that the Marion Parent-Teacher association was greatly interested in helping to make better facilities available and improve teaching conditions for the boys and girls enrolled in the Marion city schools, and that in keeping with this dedication that the organization of parents and teachers, in cooperation with the board of trustees of the Marion city administrative unit, had requested the county board of commissioners to present to the voters of the Marion city administrative unit the question of a supplementary tax for school purposes not to exceed twenty cents on the \$100.00 valuation. Gordon informed his audience that recently the trustees of the Marion city schools had appeared before the county commissioners and made a formal request for a special tax election as set out above, and that the county commissioners had agreed to call this election on April 6.

During the course of this address, Kiwanian Gordon briefly set out the needs which make a special tax levy necessary if the schools are to continue to grow progressively. It was pointed out that at the present time, a number of the classrooms in the city schools are overcrowded, and that additional teachers are needed to relieve the teacher load. If the schools are to receive relief in this connection, it will be necessary for the funds for such purposes to be raised locally as the State School Board provides funds for the employment of teachers to meet a minimum standard only.

The speaker observed that if a special tax election is carried that it will be the duty and responsibility of the County Commissioners to establish a tax rate, which in no event can exceed twenty cents on the \$100.00 valuation, to meet the budget needs as submitted by the city school board.

It was stated that the Parent-Teacher association was anxious to maintain a high standard of instruction in the Marion city schools and that the need for teachers handling special subjects was quite evident, and that if the boys and girls of this community are to enjoy such benefits, funds from local sources would be required to pay for such a program.

After his address the speaker asked for questions from the group on any of the points or issues that had been raised from the discussion. Numerous questions were asked and answered. The question was asked, (Continued on last page)