

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, APRIL 29, 1948

VOL. 52—No. 41

Bodies Of Drowned Victims Recovered Monday Afternoon

Furman Ledbetter And Arey Weaver Drown As Boat Sinks Near Moore's Landing

Morganton.—Lake James claimed two more drowning victims on Sunday afternoon. Two Shelby men—Furman Ledbetter, 67, and his son-in-law, Arey Weaver, 37—were lost as a boat in which they were riding with two other Shelby men suddenly sank in the upper end of Lake James near Moore's landing.

Searching parties hunted all of Sunday afternoon and most of the night in 20 to 30 feet of water near the boat landing where witnesses saw the flat-bottomed fishing boat sink beneath the water at 1:50 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

The two survivors of the tragedy were T. W. Bryant and Worth Davis, who were picked up by a boat which happened to see the accident and

BODIES RECOVERED

Morganton.—The bodies of two men, drowned in Lake James when their boat capsized on Sunday, had been recovered Tuesday.

Members of a searching party found the body of Furman Ledbetter, 60, at 6:30 o'clock Tuesday. The body was pulled to the shore by William Pruett of Shelby, member of the party of six conducting the search.

The body of Arey Weaver, 37, Ledbetter's son-in-law, was recovered Monday night.

came hurrying to the scene. The rescue boat was too late to save Weaver and Ledbetter who had already sunk beneath the surface of the water.

According to a story told by Bryant, one of the four fishermen, the men had come to Lake James on Friday night for several days of fishing. They had set up a camp and spent Saturday and Sunday fishing. At the time of the tragedy, they were returning to the boat landing to pack up and go home. Bryant said that the large 22 horsepower outboard motor was suddenly given a little spurt, making the bow of the boat rise out of the water and causing the stern to sink. The men clung

(Continued on last page)

McDowell Historical Sketch Presented At Rotary Meeting

Rev. M. O. Owens was guest speaker at the weekly meeting of the Marion Rotary club Friday.

Warren Huffman, high school honor student, was a guest of the club.

The speaker gave a historical sketch of McDowell county which was based on a series of articles written by Grafton Cummings Bird and published in the Marion Progress in 1913. The articles were recently republished in the Looking Backward column of The Progress.

Owens' sketch follows:

Historically and geographically, McDowell county is an interesting study. For more than 200 years its history is a star-studded account of achievement, of progress, of growth and development. And within its irregular and peculiar shape lie four hundred and thirty-seven square miles which contain a topography unexcelled for beauty, for productivity, for variety.

McDowell county reaches from Linville Falls in the northeast to Dutchman's Ridge in the southwest on the Buncombe county line, a distance of fifty miles. It reaches from Swannanoa Gap and Ridgecrest in the west to Bridgewater on the Burke county line in the east, a distance of 26 miles.

The earliest history of white men in this county goes back to about 1730, when a man named Edmonson explored this part of the world. How long he remained, or what he did, is not known. Certain it is, however, that by 1740, there was a con-

(Continued on last page)

WILDLIFE CLUB CALLS SPECIAL MEET

A special meeting of the McDowell County Wildlife club has been called for eight o'clock, Monday evening, May 3, at the courthouse, according to announcement this week by S. L. Homewood, president.

The express purpose of the meeting is to arrange to send a delegation to Asheville on May 10 to appear before an open meeting of the State Wildlife Commissioners with recommendations for changes to be made in open season dates for hunting and fishing.

Many local farmers and sportsmen are especially interested in changing the open season dates for hunting squirrels, it was explained.

These and other changes will be considered according to suggestions of club members and all other interested persons attending.

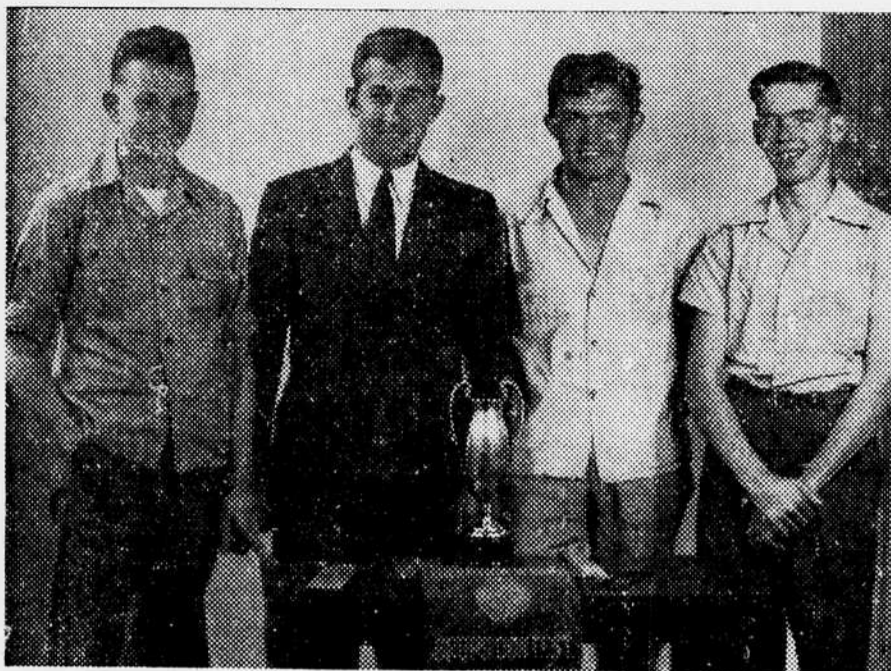
The public is cordially invited.

Marion Students Leave To Enter State Debate

Robert Marks and Betsy Keith Bowman, members of the Marion Debating Team who won in the district contest held at Appalachian State Teachers College, left today for Chapel Hill to enter the final contest of the North Carolina High School Debating Union for the Aycock Memorial Cup. A general meeting is scheduled for 2:30. Welcome will be extended by Dean of Students, E. L. Mackie and by representatives of the Dialectic Senate and Philanthropia Assembly and the Debate Council. Drawings will be conducted for sections and pairings in the preliminary debates.

After a tour of the campus the visitors will attend open house given by the Di Senate and Phi Assembly.

The query for this the 36th annual contest is "Resolved: That the Federal Government should require arbitration of labor disputes in all basic American industries."



PLEASANT GARDENS WINNERS—The Crops Judging team of the Agriculture Department of Pleasant Gardens high school is shown above with the cup won at Rutherford County Fair and other banners, ribbons and awards.

This team has taken first place in McDowell, Rutherford and Polk counties Future Farmers of America Crops Judging contest for the past two years and also first place at Rutherford County Fair in the 4-H and FFA teams contest for the past two years. The team has been among the top teams in the State Crops Judging contest for the past two years.

Reading left to right, members of the team are: Bobby Comer, Richard Roberts, agriculture teacher and coach of the team; Jimmy Setzer and Carl McKinney, Jr.

KIWANIS CLUB DISCUSSES TEEN-AGE CANTEEN

A round table discussion took the place of a regular program at the Kiwanis meeting held last Tuesday evening at the community building. A large portion of this time was given to a discussion of the teen-age canteen being sponsored by the Junior Woman's club.

Colen Wright and Harry Tyler are the Kiwanis club's representatives who will collaborate with the Junior Woman's club in the operation of the teen-age canteen. Kiwanian Wright advised the club that youth activities got under way last Saturday evening, and that a splendid response was observed. He invited members of the club to visit canteen headquarters which are located on the basement floor of the community building.

The basement floor of the community building, which was formerly used as a basketball court, has been attractively decorated and made ready for the teen-agers of Marion and surrounding territories. A considerable amount of living room furniture, including card tables and chairs, has been made available. A concession stand has been installed to take care of all refreshment requirements.

Kiwanian Wright informed members of the club that the Junior Women were anxious for help from the Kiwanis club in making plans for the supervision of the youth activity. The Kiwanians were enthusiastic in their willingness to cooperate with the Junior Woman's club and the Board of Directors voted a small donation to help finance the undertaking.

Garfield Beaman, chairman of the Inter Club Relations committee, announced that his committee would visit the Rutherford County Kiwanis club Thursday evening. Several other committees made their reports to the club.

Revival Services At Clinchfield

Rev. Guy S. Walker of Forest City will begin revival services at the Clinchfield Baptist church Sunday, May 2. He will preach Sunday morning at 11 o'clock and Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. Services will be held each night next week beginning at 7:30. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Rev. Guy Walker is associational missionary for Sandy Run association. He is a graduate of Furman University and Southwestern Baptist Seminary. Rev. Paul C. Stokes is pastor of the church.

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY OFFICE CHANGES HOURS

Effective Saturday, May 1, the hours of the Employment Security commission office will be 8:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. through the week and 8:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. on Saturdays, David Gray announced yesterday.

Marion Students Enter Forensic Contest April 30

Two students from the Marion High School have been entered in the Annual High School Forensic contest sponsored by Lenoir Rhyne college in Hickory, on April 30. The contest consists of two parts, the Declamation contest and the Extemporaneous Speaking contest. The Declamation contest has two divisions—the Oratorical Division and the General Division with recitations which will be entered by Joretta Devinyne, who is using as her selection "Makers Of The Flag" by Franklin K. Lane.

In the Extemporaneous Speaking contest, Marion will be represented by Larry Gibson. The contestant in this group will draw several sub-topics on important national questions, on one of which he will speak. He will be allowed an hour in which to prepare a speech limited to five minutes. Material will be available in the library.

Preliminary contests begin in the Assembly Room of the Administration Building at 2:00 p. m. The final contest will be held at night.

To the winners of first and second places in the final contest gold and silver medals will be awarded. The winner of the first place in each contest will be offered a partial scholarship in Lenoir Rhyne college, which will be worth \$30 during the freshman year and will be renewed in the opinion of the college the work of the student warrants it.

Mrs. Carl McMurray At State Convention

Mrs. Carl W. McMurray, State Junior Counselor of the North Carolina Federation of Music Clubs, left Marion this week to attend the State Convention of the Federated Music clubs, at Sedgefield Inn, Greensboro, April 28-May 1. She will be soloist for the Executive Board luncheon on Wednesday. As chairman of the Revisions committee, she will present the revised Constitution and By-Laws, and as Regional Chairman of Music in Hospitals, Southeast, of the National Federation of Music Clubs, she will also present this report. On Friday evening, she will preside over the Junior Workers Forum dinner, and over the Junior program Saturday at Odell Memorial Auditorium at Greensboro College.

Trains 11 And 12 Restored April 28

Southern Railway passenger trains No. 11 and 12, which were discontinued last month, were restored Wednesday. The schedule will be the same as before. No. 11, westbound, is due at 12:49 p. m. and No. 12, eastbound, at 3:33 p. m.

America's annual fire loss is about \$30,000,000.

Marion To Meet Hendersonville In Opening Game Of Season

MARION RIPPERS DEFEAT CANTON

Billy Joe Davidson pitching for the Marion Rippers, entered the hall of fame Friday afternoon when he pitched a no hit, no run game against undefeated Canton High School. The game was played at Canton. Davidson missed a perfect game by hitting two batters and wilking one. He struck out 18 batters. The canton batters were unable to get a ball out of the infield.

Rader and Captain Frank Pace helped Billy Joe by collecting two hits each, one of Pace's going for a round tripper with one man on board.

Summary R H E
Marion 7 9 1
Canton 0 0 5

Billy Joe's next appearance on the mound will be Tuesday, May 4th when he will face the undefeated Hickory High Tornadoes. Hickory at present is leading the conference with 5-0.

Monday, May 3, Don Clayton, the other ace of Coach Ditt's pitching staff will face the strong Shelby Lions at Shelby.

Marion Woman Winner Of National Contest

Mrs. Archie L. Morris, of Athens, Ga., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guy S. Kirby of Marion, was awarded \$1,100 last week as winner of top place in a Proctor and Gamble essay contest, according to word received here.

Mrs. Morris will be a guest at a banquet for contest winners to be held in Atlanta, and will also speak over the radio Friday night of this week.

Farmers Cooperative Meeting Friday Night

There will be a meeting of the McDowell County Farmers Co-operative at the court house in Marion on Friday night, April 30, at 7:30 o'clock for the purpose of completing the organization, it was announced yesterday. All farmers are invited to attend.

DYSARTSVILLE ROAD SURVEY COMPETED; REPORT SUBMITTED

Motor Vehicle Lane To Leave Tomorrow And Return in June

Raleigh.—The Motor Vehicles Department today announced a change in the schedule for Mechanical Inspection Lane No. 4, to cover Henderson, Polk, McDowell and Rutherford counties.

The lane had originally been scheduled to visit Rutherford, Tryon, Henderson and Marion. The new schedule has added Forest City to the list.

The lane, which is supervised by Grover R. Kiser, is now operating in Marion, where it will be through April 30. On May 1, it will move with this schedule: Forest City, May 3-11; Rutherford, May 13-24; Tryon, May 26-June 5; Henderson, June 8-18; Marion, June 21-29; Forest City, July 1.

Trthur T. Moore, head of the Mechanical Inspection Program, has asked motorists in these towns to have their vehicles checked as soon as a lane visits there. A car check now will save congestion at the lanes later in the year.

CHANGE TIME OF SERVICE AT LANDIS CHAPEL CHURCH

The hour of service at Landis Chapel Presbyterian church will be changed from 2:30 p. m. to 10 a. m., beginning next Sunday, May 2, it is announced.

Marion Marauders Win 4 Of 7 Exhibition Games; Season To Open Friday

The Marion Marauders have won four of the seven exhibition games played, according to announcement this week by J. C. Rabb, business manager.

The season officially opens Friday night when the Marauders meet Hendersonville on the home field.

The Marauders will play the House of David tonight (Thursday).

Scores for games played during the past week were announced by Rabb as follows:

Wednesday night the Marauders won over Lenoir Rhyne in a game here 19-11.

Saturday night the Marauders defeated the Rutherford County Owls at Spindale by a score of 7-4. The climax of the game came when Ray Yow, center field, hit a home run in the ninth inning with three men on base, and winning the game for Marion.

Monday night the Marion team won over Western Carolina Teachers college 6-5 in a game here. Charlie Cuthbertson, first baseman, hit a home run to win the game for the Marauders in the ninth inning.

Viers Services Held Wednesday

Graveside services for Thomas William Viers, 48, of Caretta, W. Va., and Marion, who died last Sunday in a Welch, Va., hospital as a result of injuries in a mine accident, were held Wednesday afternoon in the Revis family cemetery near here. The Rev. Walter G. Pack officiated.

Mr. Viers had been a section foreman for the Ogal Coal company for 28 years. He owned property in McDowell county and spent his summers here.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Estelle Nichols Viers; two daughters, Maxine and Jackie; a foster daughter, Mrs. Atlas Revis of Marion, R. F. D. No. 1, and three grandchildren.

National hog production decreased 3 per cent in 1947.