

THE MARION PROGRESS

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Murder Case Bound Over To June Term Superior Court

John Morgan, facing a charge of murder in County Court here Tuesday, waived preliminary hearing and was bound over to the June term of McDowell County Superior Court.

The charge was made in connection with the death of Bruce Jack Piercy, 28, who died Thursday when he was shot in the abdomen with a 12-gauge shotgun, according to a statement by Sheriff C. M. Pool. Pool said he was informed that Morgan and Piercy had been on a fishing trip in Avery county and had borrowed a truck, owned by Daney Morgan, father of John Morgan, to make the trip. He said Daney Morgan became worried when the boys did not return at the time he expected them and borrowed another truck to go look for them.

After locating the boys he drove the borrowed truck home and the boys followed in the truck owned by Daney Morgan. As they arrived at the Morgan home, near Ashford, they engaged in an altercation. Pool said he was told Piercy chased John Morgan with a knife and Morgan's mother and sister were injured in trying to aid him. Morgan then became angry, he said, and went into his house, returned with the shotgun and shot Piercy. Sheriff Pool said Morgan did not deny the charge.

Other cases in County Court Tuesday included William Gibbs, charged with driving drunk and no operator's license, sentenced to four months on the roads, sentence suspended on payment of \$100 fine and costs and on condition that defendant not operate a motor vehicle on the highways of North Carolina for a period of one year.

George Gibbs, Jr., aiding and abetting driving drunk, auto to be operated by unlicensed operator, sentenced to four months on the roads, suspended on payment of fine of \$100 and costs and on the further condition that defendant not operate a motor vehicle on the highways for a period of one year.

Frank W. Pyatt, driving drunk, defendant plead guilty, sentenced to four months on the roads, suspended on payment of \$100 fine and costs and defendant not operate a motor vehicle on the highways of (Continued on last page)

Urges Veterans To Set Poppy Day Example

"Pin on a poppy the first thing on Poppy Day!"

This was the appeal of G. Watson Wilson, Commander of McDowell Post of The American Legion, to all war veterans in McDowell county, in a statement issued today.

"We can never forget those comrades of ours who lost their lives in war service," the Commander's statement said, "so let us show the world that we remember by wearing a poppy on Poppy Day. We veterans should lead the way in paying tribute to those who didn't come back, so pin on a poppy the first thing on Poppy Day."

"With our poppies we remember, too, those other comrades who are still fighting a battle against wounds and illness in the veterans' hospitals. They made the poppies, and the contributions we make for the little flowers are for them, their families and the families of the dead. I am sure veterans will set an example of generosity on Poppy Day."

Poppy Day will be observed here and throughout the nation on May 29, the Saturday before Memorial Day, when women of the American Legion Auxiliary and cooperating organizations will offer the memorial flowers on the streets throughout the day.

Legion To Sponsor A "Knothole Gang"

The American Legion Post No. 56 will sponsor a "Knothole Gang" at their Junior Baseball games this summer it was recently announced by W. E. Carter, athletic officer for the post.

All boys and girls under the age of twelve will be admitted free of charge to all home games. However, to be admitted free of charge the kids will be required to attend Sunday school the Sunday before the game and have a written note from the teacher stating that they went to Sunday school that Sunday. No boy or girl will be admitted to the Knothole Gang unless they meet the Sunday school and the age requirement.

Valedictorian And Salutatorian



JOHN A. POTEAT, JR.



BETSY KEITH BOWMAN

MARION HIGH STUDENTS ACHIEVE HIGH AVERAGES

John A. Poteat, Jr., valedictorian of Marion High School, had one of the highest scholastic averages made in recent years. His average was 97.31. Miss Betsy Keith Bowman, salutatorian, had an average of 96.88.

The valedictorian is the son of Mrs. John A. Poteat and the late Mr. Poteat of Marion. He participated in the Triangular Debate for the past two years and was eliminated by the state winners both years. He was a letterman on the football team his senior year, playing in the position of guard. He is a member of the Student Council and vice-president of the Senior Class.

He is also a member of the National Honor Society, the Victory club, Foreign Language club, Hylander circulation manager, member of the Science club, the Debaters club, marshal during his sophomore year and chief marshal his junior year, member of the Future Teachers club, Monogram club and operator of the motion picture projector.

Miss Bowman is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Bowman of Marion. She is a member of the Debating club and participated in the quarter finals of State Debate at Chapel Hill last year.

She received tenth place in this state in an Achievement examination sponsored by the Pepsi-Cola company. She is a member of the Marion High School band, Victory club, Dramatics club, Girls' Athletic club, Teen Age Ten, State Teachers club, president of the Debaters club, Book Week Story Teller, marshal and member of the National Honor Society.

A brief history of the organization and development of Crossnore school was given to the Kiwanis club at the regular meeting of the club held Tuesday evening in the community building by Dr. Mary Sloop, business manager of Crossnore, Inc.

President Vernon Eckerd presided at the meeting and the program was in charge of Kiwanian Garfield Beaman who presented Dr. Sloop. In presenting the guest speaker, Beaman reminded the club that four boys and girls from McDowell county were enrolled in the Crossnore school. The boys and girls committee is interested in the children sent from McDowell county to Crossnore.

Dr. Sloop in her own unique way discussed the organization of the Crossnore Schools and the purpose for which these schools were organized. She told of how the original enrollment of one pupil had grown to an enrollment of 245 during the current year. She reviewed the financial structure of her organization and the development of the old clothes sales which contribute in a major way in the financial operation of the schools.

Mrs. Nell Lonon, superintendent of public welfare for McDowell county, was a guest of the club.

An announcement was made by Hugh Beam that a movie of the 1947 World Series baseball games would be shown at the meeting next Tuesday.

MARION ASSURED OF THREE CONCERTS

Marion is assured of Community Concerts next winter, according to announcement this week.

The canvass to bring a series of concerts to Marion was launched Monday, May 10, and was originally scheduled to close last Saturday, but was extended until Wednesday, May 19, in the hopes of securing sufficient additional memberships to add another concert to the schedule.

Complete figures were not available at press time yesterday, but it was estimated that at least 400 memberships had been sold and approximately \$2,000 raised for the concert series.

RIPPERS WIN OVER SHELBY HOME GAME

Turning in the best ball game of the year Friday night, the Rippers of Marion High came from behind to tie the score twice, then go out in front in the 7th inning to remain there as they took a 6-4 win over the strong Shelby High Lions. Sparking the Ripper win was the effective 5 hit pitching of Billy Joe Davidson, who also struck out 19 Shelby men. Rader led the attack on the opposing pitcher with three singles while Pace, Clayton and England got hits for extra bases.

The highlight of the evening was Rader's steal home with two out and the score tied and the perfect squeeze play put on by England who was at third base and Biddix who was at the bat. These types of plays are rarely seen—yet Marion has completed 3 steals of home and several squeeze plays this year, much to the astonishment of their visitors.

Shelby started the scoring in the first inning when Furrie, first man up, hit safely. Meggesson sacrificed Furrie to second where J. Bridges drove him home with the first of his three hits. Marion tied it up in their half of the first inning when Rader singled and same all the way home on Clayton's double down the left foul line.

Shelby went ahead in the third inning when Furrie walked and scored on J. Bridges' double. Marion went ahead in the fifth inning when they collected three hits and three runs on Biddix's single, Pace's triple and England's single and Rader's second hit. Shelby came back in the sixth to tie the count with a hit batsman along with two Ripper errors giving them two runs.

With the score tied at 4-4 in the seventh inning the Rippers filled the bases with none out. Davidson hit into a fast double play. With two out, score tied and bases full, J. Bridges dropped one of Eubank's low pitches—Rader dashed for home, but found Eubank waiting for him with the ball—Rader's slide was so vicious that he knocked the ball from Eubank's outstretched hand giving Marion.

(Continued on last page)

McDowell County Democrats Hold Convention Saturday

Holiness Ministers Assigned New Charges

Two changes were made in the Pentecostal Holiness appointments of Marion when the Western North Carolina conference was held in Durham last week-end.

Rev. Woodrow Smith, pastor of the West Marion and Cross Mill churches, was assigned to the Lincoln-ton church.

During his pastorate of four years here the West Marion church has built and paid for a new parsonage and established a church building fund of more than \$500. In 1946 he organized a congregation at Cross Mill and a new church building was erected this conference year. The combined membership of the two churches is approximately double the membership of the West Marion church when Smith came to Marion.

Rev. Clarence Frazier, who graduates from Holmes Bible college, Greenville, S. C., this week, was assigned to the West Marion church.

Rev. Ernest Church, of North Wilkesboro, was assigned to the Cross Mill church.

Rev. R. N. Williams was returned to the East Marion church. He has served as pastor of the East Marion church for five years.

Rev. Smith will deliver his final sermon at Cross Mill, Saturday night, and at West Marion, Sunday morning.

Rippers Win; Schedule Changed

The Marion High School baseball team defeated Hendersonville High in a game there Tuesday night by a score of 16-6. Coach Art Ditt announced yesterday.

Coach Ditt also announced a change in schedule. Marion will play Canton High School Saturday night instead of Friday night.

FIRE FRIDAY

The Marion Fire Department was called to the East Court Motor company Friday afternoon. A match had been thrown near a pool of oil on the floor but the blaze was extinguished before firemen arrived and there was no damage to the building, it was stated.

NORTH COVE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES TO START SUNDAY

GREENLEE NAMED VICE-PRESIDENT OF ELECTRIC CORP.

J. H. Greenlee was elected vice-president of the Burke-McDowell Electric Membership corporation at the annual meeting of the corporation held at the court house in Morganton last Saturday afternoon.

Other officers elected were: W. R. Mullis, president; W. L. Littlejohn, secretary, and C. L. Yount, treasurer.

Directors elected for the coming year were: W. R. Mullis, C. L. Yount, J. E. Smith, W. F. Blanton, W. L. Littlejohn, C. E. Turner, Eugene Perry, J. H. Greenlee and Fate Brown. After the directors were elected during the annual meeting, they met and elected the above officers.

Gwyn B. Price, chairman of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority was the guest speaker. He stressed the growing importance of electricity on the farms and particularly in connection with the state's good health program, by providing running water, thereby giving improved sanitary conditions. He outlined the program made in rural electrification during the past ten years. Ten years ago only 3 per cent of farms in North Carolina had electricity—today 60 per cent of them are electrified, the speaker said.

The cooperative membership from Burke, McDowell, Caldwell and Rutherford counties was well represented.

McDowell County Democrats held their convention here Saturday. R. W. Proctor, county chairman, called the convention to order and presided throughout the meeting.

Proctor spoke briefly on the history of the Democratic party in McDowell county and urged that local citizens take an active interest in political activities.

Roy W. Davis, candidate for the Legislature, addressed the group on the importance of unity and cooperation among party members.

Brief talks were also made by a number of other candidates and party leaders.

A motion was passed providing that all McDowell County Democrats who could attend the state convention in Raleigh Thursday, May 20, be designated delegates.

R. W. Proctor tendered his resignation as county chairman, but due to the fact that a quorum of the Executive committee was not present, the election of a chairman was postponed until a later date.

Hammett Rites To Be Held Sunday

The body of Pfc. Benjamin L. Hammett, who was killed March 16, 1945, on Iwo Jima, arrived here Tuesday. Funeral services will be held at the East Marion Pentecostal Holiness church at four o'clock, Sunday, afternoon, with Rev. R. N. Williams officiating, assisted by Rev. J. B. McLarty. Interment will be made in Oak Grove cemetery with the American Legion in charge of services at the grave.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin D. Hammett, Marion; five brothers, Woodrow, William, Franklin, of Marion, Alfred, U. S. Air Corps, Fairbanks, Alaska, and Charles W., of Spartanburg, S. C.

Elliott Named Manager For Scott

W. P. Elliott has been appointed campaign manager in McDowell county for W. Kerr Scott, candidate for Governor.

Commencement Program Completed For Pleasant Gardens School

Preliminary plans for the graduation exercises of Pleasant Gardens high school have been completed, R. L. Wiggins, principal, has announced.

Rev. Charles A. Phillips, pastor of the Haven Evangelical Lutheran church, Salisbury, N. C., will deliver the baccalaureate sermon on Sunday morning, May 23, at 11 o'clock at the high school auditorium.

The commencement exercises will be conducted on Friday evening, May 28, at the high school auditorium. Students of the senior class will have charge of the commencement program which will consist of a series of talks on the topic "Youth in America Today."

William Conley, class president, will have charge of the program including seven addresses with Pansy Biddix, valedictorian, and Evelyn Cooper, salutatorian, as the featured speakers.

Music for the exercise will be furnished by the senior class under the direction of Mrs. James T. Miller, choral director of the school.

Senior class activities are scheduled to start on Friday evening, May 21, with the annual senior play, "Aunt Minnie Comes To Town," presented under the direction of Mrs. James T. Miller.

The Rhythm Band, directed by Miss Elsie House, and the Junior Glee club, directed by Miss Zelma Atwell, will present a program on Tuesday evening, May 25, at eight o'clock.

Mrs. R. K. Davis will present her piano students in a recital on Thursday evening, May 27, at eight o'clock.

The public is cordially invited to attend these programs.

Shout Freedom Publicized Here

Advance publicity for the "Shout Freedom," historical drama to be presented in Charlotte, was given by members of the cast at the court house here Tuesday.

The play, written by Legette Blythe and set to music by Lamarr Stringfield, will be presented in Charlotte each night from May 20 through June 3.

Hicks Services To Be Held Sunday

Funeral services for Pvt. Edward C. Hicks, whose body arrived Monday, will be conducted at two o'clock, Sunday afternoon at the East Marion Free Will Baptist church. Rev. Lois Clayton will be assisted by Rev. Floyd in conducting the service and interment will be in Oak Grove cemetery. The American Legion will have charge of rites at the grave.

Pvt. Hicks was a gunner on a tank and was killed February 2, 1945 in the Belgian bulge.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Alvin Hicks, Route 2, Marion; three brothers, J. Alvin Hicks, Jr. and Carl Hicks, Route 2, Marion, and Kenneth Hicks of Robinsville, N. C.

There are forty billion square feet of saw-log size timber under the fire protection of the North Carolina Division of Forestry and Parks.