

Sylvan Valley News

ONLY NEWSPAPER IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

J. J. MINER, OWNER AND MANAGER

A HOME PAPER FOR HOME PEOPLE—ALL HOME PRINT

VOLUME XV

BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA, APRIL 1, 1910.

NUMBER 14

MT. AETNA ACTIVE

Sicilian Volcano Dealing Death and Destruction.

ENTIRE COUNTRY DEVASTATED

Red Hot Stream of Lava Has Been Belched From Crater, Pouring Over the District Adjacent, With Destruction to Property and Loss of Life.

Catania, Sicily.—A red-hot river of lava 1,200 feet wide and 24 feet high, has swept down the slopes of Mount Aetna, destroying all life in its path and turning the fertile country into a scene of desolation. Fully 5,000 are already homeless, their homes destroyed or menaced by the sweep of the lava.

Villages Wiped Out.

In 24 hours it advanced six miles, and half a dozen villages and settlements have been wiped out of existence or abandoned and thousands of acres of cultivated land turned into a smoking waste covered with the molten mass that pours from a dozen craters.

Troops rushed to the threatened towns to quell the panic and aid in saving the helpless.

Reports received here state that eight soldiers had been killed at San Remo and Remazzi and that scores of inhabitants were injured in those towns when the lava reached them after they had been bombarded by rocks from the volcano. The village of Nidolo is buried under a mass of lava. Borello, threatened with a similar fate, has been evacuated. Casa del Bosco has been wiped off the map. Nicolisi, protected by hills, is felt to be safe and thousands of refugees have concentrated there.

Smoke Pall Hangs Over Sicily.

A pall of smoke covers the eastern part of Sicily and extends far out to sea. In the darkness the shooting flames of the volcano, geysers of fire, were visible plainly at noon for many miles.

In every town of Sicily religious processions were held and divine aid has been implored.

TRAPPED BY FIRE.

Twelve Persons Reported to Have Lost Their Lives at Chicago.

Chicago.—Twelve persons are reported dead in a fire which attacked the L. Fish Furniture company building at 1906-1908 Wabash avenue here. About 40 employes escaped. A girl who jumped from a third story window died at a hospital.

The dead were trapped, it is said, on the fourth, fifth and sixth floor when an explosion of benzine on the fourth floor wrapped the building in flames.

Ladders were raised to the sixth floor, the topmost one, in a desperate effort to rescue any persons who might be alive there.

The fire is said to have started from an explosion of benzine in the repair rooms on the fourth floor, possibly from a carelessly dropped match. Two cabinet makers, who were at work in the repair room, were among those who escaped slightly burned. When a great sheet of flame shot across the floor they were knocked down, but almost stifled they managed to crawl to the front stairway, whence they made their way to the street below. The fire, they said, was preceded by an explosion which shook the building.

STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN.

Illinois Prohibitionists Preparing to Make Vigorous Fight.

Chicago.—The eliminating of the wet and dry question from the ballots in the election of April 5 through the action of the election commissioners in nullifying the 74,000-name petition, instead of deterring the prohibitionists has precipitated a statewide campaign. Having failed to bring the question to an issue in Chicago this spring, the Illinois prohibition executive committee began the circulation of a petition to bring the question before the legislature next fall.

The state petition will require 150,000 signatures of qualified voters, and prohibition, to be successful, must receive a vote of two-thirds of the legislature.

WAS SPENCER MURDERED?

Officers Think So, and Have Arrested Robert Smith on Suspicion.

Atlanta.—Charged with the murder of W. H. Spencer, an aged and well-to-do farmer of Walker county, Robert Smith, aged 26, a meat cutter of Chattanooga, Tenn., was brought to Atlanta and locked in the police station, following his arrest in Chickamauga, Ga., Saturday morning.

Spencer, who was 65 years of age, is supposed to have been slain by Smith somewhere between Smyrna, Cobb county, and Atlanta, after the night of February 16, last, at which time the two men were seen together; Spencer for the last time.

Smith maintains silence and refuses to give an account of himself and what became of the aged man after leaving Smyrna. Witnesses have been secured who saw the two together at different places all along the way from Chattanooga to Smyrna, where the trail ends.

Smith was located after a tireless search of many weeks conducted by the four sons of Spencer. He was arrested at Chickamauga by W. A. Matheny, of Kensington, Ga., sworn in as a deputy sheriff, and was brought to Atlanta in company with Sheriff R. S. Garmany, of Walker county. Matheny and the four sons, L. L., E. E., R. L. and H. J. Spencer, all business men of Lafayette, Ga., county site of Walker.

That Spencer was murdered after leaving Smyrna there seems to be no doubt in the minds of his family, as he has not been seen or heard from since the night of February 16. But as to the whereabouts of his body absolutely no clew has yet been obtained. The manner of his slaying is equally mysterious. A theory has been advanced that the body was thrown into the Chattahoochee river near Smyrna.

The disappearance of Spencer has been the sensation of Walker county for weeks.

GIRL PROVED HEROINE.

A 15-Year-old Girl Snatches Baby From in Front of Engine.

Fairmount, Ind.—Running into the face of death, Nettie Caskey, 15 years old, snatched her 3-year-old niece, Martelle Caskey, from in front of a locomotive on the Pennsylvania railroad. Both children rolled down the track bank as the train dashed by.

Nettie had seen the baby trotting toward the approaching train, and pursued her almost to the oncoming engines' pilot before she caught her in her arms and leaped aside.

Engineer George Jardine was so shocked that he could not continue his run farther than this city.

Married By Telephone.

Birmingham, Ala.—Marriage by means of the long-distance telephone is an innovation reported in a special from Bowden, Ga., Jim McClung and Miss Matta Rice being the principals. It was a Gretna Green affair and when the young people arrived at Bowden they called up Judge Barron at Carrollton. The ceremony was read by the judge to a phone operator, who repeated it to the bride and bridegroom. They in turn answered the questions to the operator, who passed them on to the judge.

Town Suffers From Fire.

Welsh, La.—Practically the entire business section of Welsh was wiped out by fire. Thirty buildings were destroyed, entailing a loss of \$200,000, with little insurance. The fire originated through some unknown cause in the Signal hotel, and quickly spread to other adjacent frame buildings.

Road to Spend \$1,000,000.

Louisville, Ky.—More than a million dollars, it is learned, will be expended in the next few months by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company in adding to its present equipment of locomotives and freight cars and the erection of a new freight depot and office building at Paris, Ky.

State's First Electrocution.

Raleigh, N. C.—L. Walter Morrison, a negro, was electrocuted at the state penitentiary here for the crime of assault. This is the first execution in this state under the new law, which provides that all executions shall be at the penitentiary and by electrocution.

"UNCLE JOE" MAY GO

Plans to Oust Cannon From the Speakership.

TO REFORM THE HOUSE RULES

It is Said War Against Cannonism is to Go On to the Extent of Ultimately Dethroning Speaker Cannon. Hinds Possible Successor.

Washington.—Many of the insurgent republicans of the house, who voted to retain Speaker Cannon in the chair, are "hearing from home," according to reports in circulation about the capital. These advices are said to be not at all reassuring.

Following close upon this information came a statement from several that the war against "Cannonism" is to go on to the extent of ultimately causing dethronement of Speaker Cannon, the election of his successor and the complete reformation of the rules of the house.

Elimination of Cannon.

The overthrow of the speaker and the taking away from the speakership of all power to influence legislation unduly are aimed at.

A proposition to remove Speaker Cannon by means of a combined vote of democrats and insurgents and substitute in his place Asher C. Hinds, the parliamentarian of the house, is one of the plans which several insurgents are advocating. The idea of placing in the speaker's chair a pure parliamentarian, not a member of the house, who would be entirely uninfluenced by considerations of partisan advantage, was pointed out by Representative Poindexter, of Washington, and others as the logical and proper course. Under the constitution the house may choose a speaker who is not a member of the body.

There Must Be Other Reforms.

Representative Poindexter, who is one of the prominent members of the insurgent body, said:

"This initial reform which we have accomplished must be followed by others. The whole trouble in which the house finds itself is caused by the joining of the power of the speaker with that of the leader of the majority. The English plan of having an expert parliamentarian instead of a politician as a presiding officer is the only correct one. As long as we select a party leader as speaker just so long will we have partisan and unfair rulings from the chair."

LURED TO HER DEATH.

Little Girl Graduate Meets Cruel Fate in New York.

New York.—The body of Ruth Wheeler, the little girl graduate who was lured from her widowed mother on Thursday last by a decoy offer of employment, was found huddled in a gunny sack on a fire escape outside the apartments of Albert Wolter, the man charged with her abduction.

She had been strangled with a short end of three-eighths rope, hacked with a knife, burned almost beyond recognition and thrust carelessly out of doors like so much rubbish.

Identification was possible by shreds of clothing and fragments of jewelry, but there was abundant evidence of how the murder had been done. Around the neck were the charred fibers of manilla burnt into the flesh. The apartment reeked with the odor of kerosene. There were oil stains in front of the newly painted fireboard that hid an open grate.

Fully dressed, the girl's clothing and hair had been saturated with kerosene, the fireboard had been removed and the body thrust up the chimney, standing. When the match was touched to her, she burned like a torch.

The victim was only 15 years old, the youngest of three sisters who were earning their own living. Ruth had just graduated from a business college and had been looking for employment.

The fearful crime set the police at work with the result that Albert Wolter, who came to this country recently from Germany, has been arrested on the supposition that he is responsible for the death of the girl.

One of the detectives investigating the case is quoted as saying: "It is pretty evident that Wolter maintained an agency for luring girls to his apartments. We have already

found that he lived in three separate apartments in six months. His plan was to write letters to business schools, saying that he wanted a stenographer and to send a girl to his address. We are absolutely sure that he had accomplices in the dreadful business."

TRAGEDY IN DODGE COUNTY.

Neighbors Fall Out and Fatal Shooting Was the Result.

Milan, Ga.—News has reached here of a deplorable tragedy enacted in Dodge county, about three miles from this place, at an early hour Saturday night. Two neighbors, Rufe, Miller and Ed Hart, became involved in a difficulty in the early part of the day, which, it was thought, had been amicably adjusted. It seems, however, that Miller continued to brood over his fancied wrongs and mounting his mule came to Milan and secured a box of cartridges for his Winchester and returned and opened fire on Hart, killing him instantly and fatally wounding Mrs. Miller later in the night.

Miller was arrested and carried to Eastman and placed in jail.

FEDERAL HEALTH LAW.

Senator Owens, of Oklahoma, Pleads For Enactment of Such a Law.

Washington.—Senator Owens, of Oklahoma, delivered a speech in the senate in advocacy of his bill favoring a department of public health. He said in part:

"The people of the United States suffer a loss of over 600,000 lives per annum. This terrible loss might be prevented by reasonable safeguarding under the co-operation of the Federal and state authorities. Measuring the money value of an American citizen at \$1,700, this preventable loss by death is one thousand millions of dollars annually.

There are 3,000,000 persons in the United States on the sick list from preventable causes of whom 1,000,000 are in the working period of life; about three-quarters of a million actual workers losing on an average of \$700 per annum, an approximate loss from illness of \$500,000,000, and adding a reasonable allowance for medicine, medical attention, special food and care, a like sum of \$500,000,000, these losses would make another thousand million dollars of preventable loss. A department of public health is absolutely essential in order to deal with this matter and with similar questions with the full power and dignity of this government in order to faithfully and honorably comply with the state and international sanitary obligations of the United States."

ENDURANCE CONTEST.

Status of the Carmen's Strike of Philadelphia, Pa.

Philadelphia.—With the abandonment of the state-wide strike policy by the State Federation of Labor and the returning of men to work, breaking the sympathetic strike, the battle between the carmen and the Transit company has settled down into a question of endurance.

While mediation has been halted by the firm stand of the union officials for further concessions, advocates of an early settlement have by no means given up hope that an agreement will be reached.

MAY ADJOURN JUNE 15.

National Congress Will Probably Complete Work by That Date.

Washington.—It is believed by some congressmen that congress will be ready to adjourn within the next ten weeks, but a look at the house calendar and a review of committee work makes it clear that this is improbable if the president insists on carrying out his legislative program. Speaker Cannon said that he did not look for adjournment much before June 15.

Tragedy Over Trivial Dispute.

New Orleans.—Angered as the result of a trivial dispute with his son-in-law, Alfred F. Mitchell, aged 50, shot and fatally wounded his wife, Mrs. Lucy A. Mitchell, seriously wounded his fourteen-year-old daughter, Laura M. Mitchell, and his six-year-old son, Hugh C. Mitchell, and then killed himself at his residence at Bruzel, near Gentilly.

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No. Daily.	Eastern Standard Time	No. Daily.
STATIONS		
P. M.	Lv. Hendersonville, Ar.	A. M.
4 25	Yale	10 40
4 45	Home Sho.	10 48
4 51	Cannon	10 44
5 00	Blowah	10 38
5 11	Blairstown	10 28
5 17	Penrose	10 21
5 25	Davidson River	10 13
5 30	Plisagh Forest	10 10
5 40	Brevard, Lv.	10 00
5 53	Selich	9 50
6 01	Cherryfield	9 43
6 04	Calvert	9 40
6 10	Rosman	9 35
6 25	Quebec	9 22
6 35	Reid's	9 10
6 45	Lake Toxaway, Lv.	9 00

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County Government.

Representative—G. W. Wilson, Clerk Superior Court—T. T. Loftis. Sheriff and Tax Collector—C. C. Kilpatrick.

Treasurer—Z. W. Nicholls. Register of Deeds—B. A. Gillespie. Coroner—Dr. W. J. Wallis. Surveyor—A. L. Hardin. Commissioners—W. M. Henry, Ch'n; G. T. Lyday; W. E. Galloway. Superintendent of Schools—T. C. Henderson.

Physician—Dr. Goode Cheatham. Attorney—R. L. Gash.

Town Government.

Mayor—W. E. Breese, jr. Board of Aldermen—T. H. Shipman, J. M. Kilpatrick, T. M. Mitchell, F. L. De Vane, E. W. Carter. Marshal—J. A. Galloway. Clerk and Tax Collector—T. H. Galloway. Treasurer—T. H. Shipman. Health Officer—Dr. C. W. Hunt. Attorney—W. W. Zachary. Regular meetings—First Monday night in each month.

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