

Western North Carolina Times

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DROWNED IN PARK LAKE

Cletus Justus, the 18-year-old son of Contractor Robert Justus, was drowned in the smiling waters of Rhododendron Lake, today (Thursday) at 12:30 o'clock.

The body was recovered one and one-half hours later.

The young man, who was employed on one of the buildings being erected in the park, was a cousin. Butler Bradley, rowed across the lake to the opposite shore during their noon hour. Butler Bradley got out of the boat safely, his cousin missed his footing, rolled down the steep bank of the dam and met death beneath the rippling waters of the beautiful lake.

Carpenters, resting during the noon hour, on the opposite side of the lake, heard the splash, saw the boy swimming towards the bank and hastened to his aid, but the distance was too great, and the boy had disappeared before they reached the spot.

Butler Bradley says he shoved an oar towards his companion when he was within a few feet of the dam, that the dead boy either missed grasping it or refused its aid, and that he was within a very few feet of the shore when he went down for the last time.

Aid was summoned from town and soon a large crowd had gathered around the fatal spot.

Ropes, grappling irons, and long strands of barbed wire were used in dragging the bottom of the lake for the body. The second attempt was successful. Two bars of the wire caught in the boy's clothing and the azure sky looked down pityingly on a limp, white-faced object that but a couple of hours gone had been full of life and hope.

Dr. Guy E. Dixon was there and made every effort to restore life—although he knew that life there was none. The boy's body was laid on the green sward underneath a rhododendron in full beauty and later was brought to town.

Under the able direction of Superintendent Bangs of the Light and Power Company, Messrs. Anders, Wright, Meyer and Tipton recovered the body within an hour after their arrival on the scene.

Rhododendron Lake, the newest of Hendersonville's lakes, is thus the last to claim its victim. Highland Lake, (then known as Rhett's pond), was the first to take its toll of human life. Rainbow Lake was the next; then Kanuga, and later Osceola. Rhododendron Lake completes the list.

COAL TEST

Washington.—Final tests to determine the value of Alaskan coal to the Navy will be made by the cruiser Maryland during the summer, according to officers who testified today before the Senate Territories Committee. Lieutenant Commander Boyd, of the Bureau of Steam Engineering, told the committee that incomplete tests of coal from the Behring River field indicated that it was of high grade. Paymaster Higgins said the Government paid \$3 a ton for coal on board colliers at Norfolk and Baltimore, and coal delivered on Pacific Coast points, Hawaii, or the Philippines cost between \$7.50 and \$8.25 a ton. About 250,000 tons a year are sent to the Pacific, he said, most of it in British bottoms.

The whole American commercial fleet would be needed with a consequent paralyzing of industry, the paymaster testified, to furnish the Nation with colliers in time of war to take coal to the Pacific.

GRADED SCHOOL'S COMMENCEMENT

The twelfth session of the Hendersonville Graded school closed on Thursday, May 15, and on Friday at eleven o'clock the fourteen graduates of the High School held their Class-day exercises and received certificates of graduation. At the same time certificates were presented to eight pupils from the Commercial department. The principal features of this part of the commencement exercises were published in The Mountaineer last week and need no further comment except to state that the attendance was very much too small for so rich a program.

At eleven o'clock Sunday morning at the First Methodist church Rev. A. L. Stanford preached the annual sermon. The services were deeply impressive, and greatly appreciated by the large audience in attendance. The text for the message was the 12th verse of the ninetieth Psalm: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

On Monday evening the Hendersonville High School Literary Society held its second annual debating and declamation contest, which concluded the commencement exercises. The contestants for the Declaimers' Medal were: Miss Ruth Schaeffer, subject, "A Railroad Comedy"; Miss Lula Alexander, subject, "The Soul of the Violin"; Miss Elsie Ficker, subject, "Jamie". The selections were well rendered, and the decision was a very difficult one, but the medal was awarded to Miss Ficker.

The question for the debate was, "Resolved, That American ships engaged in the coastwise trade should be allowed to pass through the Panama Canal free of toll." Oswald Smith and Thurston Crane upheld the affirmative, and Frank Corriher and Morse Shreve the negative. The question was decided in favor of the negative. The Debaters' Medal was awarded to Mr. Crane who was on the losing side. The debate was in every way far above the average high school, and would have done credit to a college team.

The fountain pen offered by Miss Steedman for the best composition was awarded to Morris Ripley. The gold medal offered by Miss Steedman for the best Latin scholar was awarded to Miss Lily Allen.

Marion Trice, who presided over the exercises of the evening, presented to the Hendersonville High School the O. Henry Memorial Cup for one year, which was won by Miss Elsie Ficker for the best short story written by the High School girls of the State this year. This beautiful silver cup, which is valued at \$75 was purchased by the literary societies of the State Normal and Industrial college of Greensboro, and is presented for one year to the High School which sends the best short story written by a regularly entered High School girl.

The music for the evening was rendered by the High School orchestra. Indeed, every person who took part in these exercises was a regular matriculated pupil except Mr. D. S. Pace, who rendered the decisions of the judges and presented the medals.

Error to Try to Hurry Women.
A Fort Scott (Kan.) man and his wife were planning to take a trip, the Tribune of that town says, and after they had decided on the day the man spoiled all the pleasure of preparing by suggesting that he "bet they would miss the train." On the fatal morning his wife suddenly remembered that she had not put in her mirror and rushed back to get it. When she started again she was sure there was something else she had forgotten and looked in her suitcase to see. It happened to be there, so they rushed to the depot. The train was just out of sight, but the man didn't say "I told you so." He did say, though: "If you hadn't taken so much time dressing we wouldn't have missed the train." "I know that," returned the wife, "and if you hadn't rushed me we wouldn't have had to wait so long for the next train."

BONDS SELL AT PREMIUM

County and township bonds, to the aggregate value of \$95,000, were sold Monday by the county commissioners. They sold at a premium of \$3,000.

The bonds were as follows: Henderson county, \$25,000; Hendersonville township, \$50,000; Hooper's Creek township, \$20,000; total, \$95,000. They were bought for \$97,000, by the First Bank and Trust Company as agent for R. M. Grant and Company of Chicago. The bonds bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, payable semi-annually.

The money derived from the sale of the Township bonds will be expended under the direction of the county commissioners; and that means that the expenditure will be closely watched and well and carefully made, for the county commissioners are business men of recognized ability who are rendering faithful and efficient service.

The money derived from the sale of the Township bonds will be expended under the direction of special commissioners elected by the townships. Hoopers Creek has already elected its commissioners. They are J. P. Fletcher, chairman; P. A. LeLong, secretary; H. E. Lance, E. S. Souther, W. D. Bagwell Hendersonville township, has not yet elected its commissioners; they will be elected at a mass meeting held after due notice by publication; and it is confidently expected that this township will be as successful as Hooper's Creek in selecting thoroughly competent men.

The county commissioners fully realized their responsibility in the matter of issuing the bonds. They were determined to make no mistake in the matter. Before issuing the bonds they took competent legal advice; and also, out of abundance of caution, they obtained an opinion from Judge Lyon.

MAJOR PICKENS GIVES \$300

Major S. V. Pickens, one of Hendersonville's most honored citizens, as he is one of its oldest, has donated \$300 towards the purchase of an addition to Oak Dale Cemetery.

The lot is now being platted and will be on sale within a few days.

Major Pickens has seen Hendersonville develop from a mountain village to a modern city. He was the owner of the first street car line here and his heart beats warm towards his own home town. While the Major's health is not all that his scores of friends would desire it is a matter of mutual congratulation that he shows a very great improvement in that respect.

HOSPITAL SEEKS NEEDED LOAN

At Monday's meeting of the board of county commissioners a request was received from the Hospital Association for a loan from the sinking fund. The commissioners would have been glad to loan the money if they had it; but the sinking fund is already loaned out. Therefore the county cannot at present comply with the Hospital Association's request.

It is understood however, that city of Hendersonville has money to loan. We do not know the exact amount of such money; but on two occasions bond issues for sidewalks were made by the city—\$18,000 in one instance and about \$20,000 in the other,—and the bulk of this money was secured by 'the abutting property, the principal part and interest to be paid in ten years. It is understood that a year ago there was about \$24,000 of this still unpaid; and that, of this \$24,000, something like \$8,000 is now due or past due; and it is presumed that the bulk of this has been collected. Therefore it is expected that the Hospital Association will make a strong plea to be allowed to borrow some of this money.

The Hospital Association urgently needs a loan of about \$3,000 for the completion of the building. The security which can be given is ample.

THE FIGHT FOR WATER POWER

The most important law suit ever tried in Henderson county is that now occupying the attentions of Judge Lyon and a jury of 12 men, the Blue Ridge Interurban Railway vs. R. M. Oates and others. It is a battle of legal giants warring over a strip of land for which one of the contestants paid less than a thousand dollars—and upon the possession of which it is said the fate of a million dollar development depends.

Representing the railway company are Smith, Shipman & Justice, C. W. Tillott of Charlotte and Judge Manning, of Kitchin & Manning, Raleigh.

Mr. Oates' interests are being watched by Staton & Rector, Britt & Toms, Asheville, Judge Merrimon, Asheville, and Mr. Schenck. All the evidence was not yet in on Thursday. The case will reach the jury the end of the week.

It involves many knotty legal points and whichever way this jury decides the case will probably be appealed to a higher court.

APPRECIATION

Asheville Citizen.

Score one for Henderson county. Her enterprising and progressive citizens, without appealing to the ballot, have gone on record for a good roads bond issue of \$95,000, what this means to the future of this section anybody who can read can readily determine. It means almost as much for Buncombe county as it does for Henderson, in that it brings a first-class macadamized highway right to our county line. For this latter purpose \$25,000 of the total bond issue will be put to work at the earliest opportunity.

The Citizen congratulates the people of our neighboring county on their public spirit. We are not surprised at it, however, for the good roads spirit is not a new one "down the line." For the last few years the good roads movement has been steadily growing in Henderson, and the climax was reached last week when the two hustling newspapers at Hendersonville, The Western North Carolina Times and The Western Carolina Democrat, joined forces and brought out two excellent good roads editions. Each constituted a superb effort, and the two marked splendid accomplishment.

THE DEATH OF MRS. T. S. WOOD

Mrs. Thomas S. Wood, aged 60, died Sunday night, at her home in Brevard, after a long illness. The funeral services were held at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning at the residence, Rev. Messrs. Norwood and Davis officiating. The interment took place the same day at Davidson River cemetery.

On account of her high character and many admirable qualities, Mrs. Wood had a large circle of friends and was held in the utmost esteem by all who knew her. Her death will be felt as a great loss by the whole community, and especially by the Presbyterian church of which she was a consistent member.

Surviving her are her husband, one son, four daughters, and three sisters. One of her sisters is Mrs. W. C. Stradley of Hendersonville; the others are Mrs. Hollingsworth of Asheville and Mrs. Kelley of Sumter, S. C.

Tokio.—News that the Californian alien land ownership bill had been signed by Governor Johnson was received here with regret, although it had been discounted in official and non-official circles. It was hoped up to the last moment, however, that Washington's intervention would prove successful. The newspapers published extra editions with the announcement that the bill had been signed.

CONVENTION AT LAUREL PARK

Editor Times:
Having been asked so many times where and when the next County Singing Convention will be held, I wish to say through the columns of your paper that the next convention will be held in Hendersonville on the first Sunday in June. It is my understanding that the committee on place has not definitely decided upon a building. This will be announced later.

I wish to say to all the choirs in the county who have been singing with us, and others who would like to join the convention that we extend to them a most hearty invitation to be present with a good class. We have had some classes from other counties and we hope to have them with us again on the first Sunday in June.

We wish to thank the people for their attendance at former conventions and we beg them to help us to make his (the best convention ever held in Henderson county. Let every one come and bring well filled baskets and let's have a pleasant and profitable day.

I wish to state further that one Section of our Bylaws provides that all the singers of any choir shall live within three miles of regular place of practice. We hope that each choir will comply as nearly as possible with this Section.

J. F. Stepp,
President.

(Since the above communication was received, we have learned that Laurel Park has been selected as the place for the Convention.)

SOME POET!

M. M. Shepherd, Mayor-elect of the best town in the South, and that's Hendersonville, is also a poet.

Yes, sir, a poet—
Of course, the election is over, now, and so it can't hurt anything—much—and Roe's friends ain't going to hold it against him either, when they understand all the circumstances in the case.

The poem was inspired by—by—well, by lots of things. It ain't copyrighted although it ought to be and it appears elsewhere in this issue over his own signature.

THE SCHOOL IS GROWING

The following figures with regard to the growth of the graded school (white) are of interest:

Enrollment for previous year, 554. Enrollment for present for present year, 605. Increase, more than 9 percent.

Average attendance for previous year, 341.

Average attendance for present year, 411. Increase more than 20 percent.

The increase in attendance is more than double the increase in enrollment.

The number of tardies during the present year has been only one-third of the number during the previous year.

SUPERIOR COURT

Henderson county Superior court, now nearing the end of the second and last week of the term, is running a good deal behind its schedule, and a large number of cases will be continued. Judge Lyon left for home last Friday evening on account of the illness of his wife, and did not return until Monday afternoon. In addition to this loss of nearly two working days, a further delay has been caused by the hearing of the water power suits—Blue Ridge Interurban Railway Co. vs. Hendersonville Light and Power Company, and vice versa.