

THE CHATHAM RECORD

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 19, 1878.

PITTSBORO, N. C., CHATHAM COUNTY, THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1924.

NUMBER 48.

A TERRIBLE STORM.

Three People Are Killed When House is Blown Down.

One of the worst storms that has passed over any part of Chatham took place at Pace's Mill, on Haw River about 10 miles northwest of Pittsboro, Wednesday afternoon, April 30, about 3 o'clock, when three people, a man, his wife and his son were hurled into eternity in the twinkling of an eye, besides seven others being wounded, some of them probably serious.

From what we can gather from outside sources there was a dangerous looking black cloud that came up from the southwest. It was a regular twister and when it struck the little house in which 11 people had gathered to get out of the rain, the wind took the house like it had been a bit of paper, and timber, men, women and children were blown in all directions. Hardly a piece of the house was left.

The killed are: George D. Blalock, aged 51 his wife, Mrs. Maggie Blalock, 50, and his son, Charlie Blalock, 16. A baby, 8 days old, the infant of Mrs. David Johnson, daughter of Mr. Blalock, died some time during Wednesday night.

The Blalock home sit on the side of a hill and when the storm struck it Mrs. Blalock was blown through the debris straight up to the top of level of the hill, which is over 100 feet high.

Mr. Blalock was blown 125 yards through timber and brush and his head and body were terribly lacerated. His head must have hit a tree or some hard substance, causing instant death. The baby was blown 200 yards from the house and was found in a gully nearly covered with mud and water its little face being just above the water thereby saving it from being drowned.

The Pace old grist mill, standing nearby, a large three story frame building was completely wrecked, the big building being turned over and falling in the roadway.

Across the river, and near where the mill stood, was a steel bridge, said to be one of the longest bridges in Chatham, and containing eight spans was partly blown down, only two spans being left standing in the middle of the river.

This bridge, when built cost several thousand dollars.

As soon as the storm passed over messages were sent to Chapel Hill and Pittsboro for doctors, and Dr. W. B. Chapin, of Pittsboro, and Drs. Lloyd and Abernathy, of Chapel Hill, quickly responded and did all in their power to relieve the seven wounded people. They were later taken to a Durham hospital.

The dead bodies of Blalocks were dressed and laid out side by side and Thursday their remains were taken to Grace Chapel Christian Church, five miles west of Sanford, there, a tremendous concourse of people attending the funeral services, several from Pittsboro.

Tuesday a year ago a similar storm passed over the same section but it did not do much damage. It is said that where the bridge stood over the river, has been an unlucky place, as 32 years ago a bridge was destroyed there.

Around Pittsboro the storm was not so severe although a strong wind did some damage to trees and growing crops. Hailstones as large as partridge eggs fell for a few minutes and in a short while there was a dead calm after such a severe storm. It is said hail as large as a hen egg fell between Pittsboro and Bynum.

No one can accurately describe the scenes that happened during this storm. It lasted only a few minutes, but in that short time huge sills were blown from under houses and carried a quarter of a mile away. Big pines and oaks were either blown up by the roots or twisted half in two, so strong and fierce was the wind. The bark on many trees was twisted off and scattered in many directions, and the bolts and pins on the big steel bridge were broken as if some powerful machine had done the work.

Ed Avent's barn was torn to pieces and the timber was scattered in all directions. If the twister had been 40 feet further west Mr. Avent's house would have been destroyed. The strange part at this place was the freaks of the wind. An apple tree was blown down here and yonder while others stood the test and were not damaged.

It is said that Mrs. Blalock, the lady killed, was blown entirely over the tops of trees before she fell to the ground.

The storm was something awful and those who passed through it safely do not care to pass through another such an ordeal again.

The mother of the 8-day-old baby, Mrs. David T. Johnson was in bed at the time when the storm struck the house, and she was blown many feet away. When she found her baby and dressed as she was, she walked about a mile through the downpour of rain towards a neighbor's house, but gave out on the way. She was soon found and friends helped her to safety.

A seven year old girl was almost literally scalped. Part of the skin on the top of her head, almost as large as a person's hand, was torn loose and hung by one end.

In forty feet from where the house was blown to pieces, stood a barn built of logs. The top of the barn and one or two logs were blown away and left the rest of the barn standing. The stock inside were not even hurt. The width of the area affected was about 100 yards wide, and after it did all the damage it could it looked like it got frightened, said an informant, and tried to get out of the

ABOUT MOTHER'S DAY.

Splendid Article by Our Brickhaven Correspondent.

Brickhaven, May 5.—At the meeting of the Betterment Association held at the home of Mrs. R. H. Overby last Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. A. P. Harrington was unanimously elected president for another year. Mrs. Harrington is very energetic and has been a splendid, loyal officer, and we are predicting another successful series of Betterment activities. Mrs. Kennedy was retained as treasurer and Mrs. T. J. Harrington will be the secretary for the coming year. Our staff of officials is a very competent one, and the members are ready and willing to stand with them in all matters relating to the welfare of the school and the community.

Misses Lelia Johnson and Mary Bland, of Pittsboro, and Laura Harris, of Frosty, were visitors here recently.

Miss Wilma Buchanan, of Bonsal, spent last week here with her sister, Mrs. Phyl Harrington.

We have another car in town. Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Wicker are enjoying a recently purchased brand new John Henry touring car.

We regret very much to hear that Mrs. C. H. Thompson was taken seriously ill last Saturday night. However she is somewhat better and we sincerely hope will soon be out again.

Mr. J. A. Marks spent several days here last week with relatives. Next Sunday is Mother's Day. On that day everyone is asked to wear a flower in honor of the best mother who ever lived—your mother. The carnation has been chosen for "Mother's" flower and its fragrance and purity are symbolic of the depth and sweetness of mother love. No one can fall so low or become so depraved but that he will feel humble before the greatness and intensity of mother love. If one's mother is living the little flower should be pink, otherwise wear the white. Let us not forget to honor our mothers by wearing a flower (any flower will be appropriate) and if we are away from home and mother on that day, let's write a letter also. One never regrets being considerate and thoughtful of the best friend one has—mother.

In all ages poets and writers have eulogized mother love, and it is fitting and right, for it is a sublime devotion, and deserves more than mere words can express, but it seems that the father should receive some share of praise, at least the great father heart, should have more recognition. Only those who have had the experience of losing a father can know the bitterness, the loneliness and the agony in a home without the guiding spirit and influence of a father. Edgar Guest has grasped the full meaning of a father's love, and has fittingly expressed this conception in a little poem, "Father." There are scores and scores of fathers the world over, but we think that the type depicted by Mr. Guest is a type that most of us are familiar with, just the plain, everyday American father. Let's think of father too, and even if we do not have a "Father's Day," on which to give some outward manifestation of the appreciation of a father's love, we can express tributes in many other ways. Meanwhile, don't forget to wear a flower on Mother's Day, and remember the letter, if we are away from home.

Misses Eunice Thompson and Ruth Kennedy were among those who successfully passed the seventh grade examinations and we wish them continued success with their studies. Credit is due both to the girls and to the 7th grades teachers, for the good grades made.

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MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES.

To be Held at the Court House Saturday Afternoon, May 10, 4 p.m.

Master of ceremonies—Victor R. Johnson.

Prayer by Rev. R. G. Shannonhouse. Hymn—How Firm a Foundation. Memorial Address—Daniel L. Bell. Song—Cover Them Over with Beautiful Flowers.

Song—Tenting on the Old Camp Ground.

Prayer by Rev. R. R. Gordon.

The marshals, Arthur H. London, W. P. Horton, A. C. Ray, W. R. Thompson and Walter Johnson, will form the audience into line and, led by them and the children, they will march to the monument and strew flowers around it. And thence to the church yards where they will cover with wreaths and flowers, "those dead heroes of ours."

WINNIE DAVIS CHAPTER, U. D. C.

OUR NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

During the week the following good people have subscribed for The Chatham Record:

Mrs. George Helseth, A. Selders, Mrs. J. E. Cathell, Rev. R. P. Eubanks, Mrs. R. F. White, George L. Dwyer, A. F. Womble, A. C. Ray, Seaboard Mills and L. P. Rascoe.

We appreciate every one of them and welcome them among our best friends.

bottom in two or three different directions.

News from the Watt's hospital, late Friday night was to the effect that the seven storm injured victims of the cyclone of Wednesday afternoon, were resting very well, and so far there was no change for the worse in either individual case. There is a strong hope that all will eventually recover in the course of time.

ABOUT THE AVENTS BRIDGE.

Local News of Interest From The Corinth Community.

Corinth, May 5.—Mrs. T. F. Cross is at home again after a weeks visit with relatives in Durham.

Mr. W. H. Lawrence and family, of Durham, spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Cross.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Mims motored to Durham Sunday to attend the funeral of General Carr.

Rev. W. A. Piland held his regular first Sunday service at Buckhorn church Sunday. The amount of the fund for superannuated Methodist ministers apportioned to Buckhorn is \$86. This is a small amount of money to raise for such a good cause and the task should be a very easy one.

Misses Margie and Sankie Perry, of Pittsboro, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nash at Buckhorn.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Morgan, of Raleigh, and Roy Cole, of Sparta, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Clark at Corinth.

Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Benson and Mrs. M. A. Avery spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Ashworth at Buckhorn. Mrs. Avery will remain for a few weeks.

Here it is May 5th and no cotton growing weather yet. Nights still cool and the cut worms still cutting. The tornadoes of the upper end of the county did not reach us not even the rain, for farmers are needing rain right now.

From what we can gather there is not much prospect now of the two counties agreeing on a bridge proposition at Avents Ferry. We know that there are many influential citizens of Sanford who want this bridge and it seems too bad that now the chance of getting it is so near that they do not express their views in a way that cannot be misunderstood and back up the plan that they themselves first proposed.

We don't know when we have attended a more enjoyable or more successful high school commencement than that conducted by the teachers and students of the Moncure high school last week. If other new schools and new teachers in this and surrounding counties show as much real progress as this one has shown for the past two years, they have got to go some. To have raised over \$600.00 in one term of 8 months by giving plays and entertainments, to be used for much needed equipment, is also an accomplishment that is worth mentioning. Now what we want down here in the lower end of the county and what we must have is a truck to carry our high school students to Moncure. Since we cannot convince the county authorities of the need of a high school at Corinth, we must do the next best thing by getting our boys and girls in the high school at Moncure, and still have them live at home.

PAID RECORD A SHORT VISIT.

Mr. C. S. Harrington and family, of Brickhaven, passed through Pittsboro Saturday on their way to Graham, where his daughter, Miss Grace, will spend a few days with her aunt, Mrs. W. R. Green. While in Pittsboro Mr. Harrington stopped in the Record office to have his paper changed from one postoffice to another. He stated that it would enable him to get his paper a day earlier, which he can scarcely wait for each week.

Miss Juanita Palmer and Mr. Ernest Phillips, both of Siler City, were married last Saturday.

MOVE FOR ALL TIME NURSE.

Asked to be Published Under Town-Sheriff Act.

Dr. Byrd, representing the Health Department North Carolina, is in Chatham in interest of having an all time Bureau of Maternity and Infancy established. The county commissioners will be opportunely at their meeting next Monday to have this department for Chatham established.

The work will be in the hands of a registered trained nurse and is established under the provisions of the Shepherd-Towner Act in Congress, enabling the counties and states that desire it to collect half the salary for the nurse employed from the Federal government. So far 42 of the states have taken advantage of the opportunity and North Carolina is one of the states to accept it. Nearly all of the counties in the state have joined in it and it is to be hoped that Chatham will also accept the proposition.

The work of this registered trained nurse will be solely confined to that of pre natal cases and child birth in general and the supervision of children up to six years of age. It will be an educational movement and in the form of instruction to mothers for the care of themselves and the children born in the county, giving them such admonition that the infant death rate may be lessened, deformity and other matters of importance told them that cannot be estimated in dollars and cents.

The appointment of this nurse will be in the hands of the State Health Department and one of the rules is that the nurse selected must be a native of North Carolina, but in no case a citizen of the county in which the appointment is made. The former insures a nurse that is both familiar with the people, their habits and their temperament, and the latter insures against any possibility of establishing a job for a person reared in the county. There is much that could be said about this important work, but space forbids at this time, and as there is little doubt but that the county commissioners will take advantage of the opportunity offered them, we shall be in position later to go into detail about the many advantages of the all time health nurse.

It might be of interest to our many readers to know that the annual average birth rate for Chatham is 696; the average annual death rate is 246 and the annual average infant death rate is 71, the average annual still births being 22. The infancy death rate in Chatham of children two years of age and under is one-third that of the birth rate, or in other words one-third of the children born in Chatham county each year die from various causes, either at birth or before they are two years old. Many of these deaths can be prevented by taking such methods and advice as will be given to the mothers by the registered nurse. There are more than seventy-five mid-wives in Chatham, many of them ignorant as to the major duties of their profession and one of the duties of the nurse will be to hold clinics and teach these women such things as is important for them to know.

Let everyone encourage the commissioners to take advantage of this opportunity.

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MIDNIGHT BOBBERS CAUGHT.

Two of the Three Men Who Robbed Mr. Hadley Are Arrested.

A week or two ago The Record printed an article about Mr. Mint Hadley, proprietor of the Hadley hotel in Siler City, being assaulted by three men and robbed of a sum of money. Two of these robbers have been arrested.

The men give their names as Charles Lee and Bertice Rowland, alias Allison Rouse, supposed to be from Ohio. They were stopping at the Grove Park Inn, a hotel run by John Aiken, a colored man. They came there two weeks ago and engaged a room, and after remaining a few days they left, leaving their baggage—a valise, in the room they occupied, with instructions that it be shipped when they wrote for it.

Policeman Charles Crutchfield, who was on the alert for the robbers of Mr. Hadley, found out in some way that the valise had been left with Aiken and his suspicion being aroused searched the valise. He found several letters, one from the young man's mother, addressed to Rowland, lamenting the fact that he had changed his name.

There were also a lot of clippings from newspapers, mostly about bank robberies, postoffice thieves, etc, but none showing that they were promoters of any kind of manufacturing.

Mr. Crutchfield told Aiken to hold the letter for him when it came. Saturday afternoon sheriff Blair went to Siler City and he and policeman Crutchfield went to the hotel room to again examine the valise, but instead of doing so found the two above young men in the room.

Under suspicion, the sheriff put the two young men under arrest and took them before Mr. Hadley who instantly recognized one of the men as the one who robbed him. The man asked Mr. Hadley if he recognized the clothes he had on were the same. Mr. Hadley told him he didn't, but he recognized his face, alright.

They were taken before mayor J. S. Wrenn, who bound them over to court under a bond of \$5,000.00. They could not give the bond and the sheriff brought them to jail.

ATTENDANTS AT FUNERAL.

Social Events and Local News From Siler City Folks.

Siler City, May 5.—Two of the most delightful social events of the season were held at the lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Wrenn last Friday afternoon when the members of the social committee of the Womens Club were hosts to the Club at a well appointed affair from 3:30 to 5 o'clock.

Again in the evening from 8:30 to 11 o'clock the same committee which is composed of Mesdames M. M. Fox, J. B. Marley, C. N. Bray, W. S. Edwards, J. C. Gregson, W. H. Hadley and Junius Wrenn entertained the members of the senior class. At both affairs block cream and cake in colors, harmonizing with decorations, were served.

Friday night at the school auditorium the graduating exercises of the kindergarten department were held, Mrs. O. I. Hinson, the efficient teacher presenting her pupils in a manner reflecting much credit to her and the little folks.

Mr. Clyde L. Fore was hostess to a number of friends at a bridge party Friday evening, complimentary to Mrs. G. K. Clapp of Atlanta.

Those attending the funeral services held for Gen. Julian S. Carr, at Durham yesterday, were Col. J. Dan Dorsett, J. C. Lane and V. M. Dorsett.

Mrs. L. L. Wrenn will go to Raleigh tomorrow to attend the state federation of womens clubs, which will be held in that city this week.

Mrs. W. J. Richardson and children spent the week end with A. L. Johnson and family on Pittsboro Rt. 2.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Durham and sons, John and Lee B., attended the Kearns family reunion held yesterday near Asheboro.

J. F. Lambe, Mr. and Mrs. Junius Wrenn were among those attending a birthday celebration at Lambsville yesterday, honoring the anniversary of Thomas J. Lambe, of Durham.

Dr. Frank R. Wrenn, of Anderson, S. C., spent Sunday here with his mother, Mrs. Alice Wrenn.

Among those attending the funeral here of Mrs. Elizabeth Fox Saturday afternoon from a distance were Job Fox and daughter, Miss Dollie, of Lillington, Mrs. Maida Seawell, of Glendon, Rev. J. H. Highfill, of Liberty, who assisted Rev. A. D. Shelton and R. S. Fountain in the service, Mrs. Shubal Strunks, David Holliday, Ernest Fox, Mrs. Ellen Cooper, and Mrs. Sarah Hobson, of Greensboro, J. Haywood Siler, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Russell, Miss Mary and Sam Siler, of Raleigh, John and Dan Fox, of Bonlee, Mrs. Cornelia Thomas and Ernest Thomas, of Franklinsville, Mrs. Cammie Jones, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. McBane, of Manndale.

J. H. ox went to Winston-Salem yesterday and was accompanied home by Martin Wright, who for several months has been a patient in a hospital of that city.

C. E. Brady accompanied by his mother and sisters, Mrs. A. L. Brady and Misses Vida, Maude and Ollie Brady, yesterday attended the memorial services at Bennett.

E. H. Jordan and M. M. Fox attended the funeral today of M. H. Thomas at Pleasant Hill near Liberty.

Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Elkins of Siler City, were in attendance at the State Convention of Funeral Directors at Raleigh last week.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM DARK.

Other Local News From Bear Creek of Interest to Our Readers.

Bear Creek, Rt. 2, May 5.—Mr. William Peter Dark, aged 72 years, 6 months and 4 days, died at his home on Siler City, Rt. 5, Monday, April 28th. He was taken suddenly ill about 8 o'clock the night before with both heart trouble and paralysis. He had suffered minor strokes heretofore.

In young manhood he married Miss Susan Elizabeth Johnson, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Tarleton Johnson, and to this union were born 12 children, 2 boys and 10 girls. The oldest child, a boy, died in infancy; Mrs. Dark died about 12 years ago; 2 girls are dead also. Mrs. M. T. Norwood died about 10 years ago and Mrs. S. J. Clark has been dead several years. The surviving children are L. T. Dark, who made his home with his father; Mesdames H. W. Webster and W. W. Dark, of Siler City, Rt. 3, S. B. Burke and M. W. Willett, of Rt. 2, Bear Creek; A. R. Brooks, of Bonlee; H. S. Fox, of Burlington; Miss Ida Dark, of Granville school faculty, Winston-Salem; and Miss Ethel Dark, who holds a position with Job P. Wyatt and Son, Raleigh.

Mr. Dark was converted at Hope M. P. church at the age of 27 and joined Rives Chapel Baptist church, remaining a member of said church about 21 years. About 25 years ago he moved his membership from Rives Chapel to Sandy Branch Baptist church, being a faithful member at his death. He had been a deacon in his church for many years; also was treasurer while he was a member of Rives Chapel. Of truth, "a good man in Israel has fallen" and a "good man has gone to his reward." His body is dead, but his influence can never die; it will live and bless the community in which he lived. Thank God for such men as brother Dark.

May the sorrowing relatives feel that earth makes no wounds too severe for heaven to heal; that he has gone ahead to welcome them home; that he has entered "a city whose builder and maker is God," where there is no pain, no sorrow, no death nor crying, but where all is beauty and bliss, and nothing to mar its joy.

He is survived by 38 grand children, 11 grand children dead, four brothers, E. G. Dark, Carabont; Sam H. Dark, Greenville, S. C.; John P. Dark, and M. H. Dark, of Hillsboro.

The funeral services were held at Sandy Branch Tuesday afternoon, April 29th. In the absence of his pastor, Rev. J. H. Broom, of Bonlee, Rev. R. S. Fountain, of Siler City, officiated. His grand daughters were floral bearers. Deacons of Sandy Branch church were the pall bearers.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Yarbrough, of Jonesboro, Rt. 4, were Sunday visitors in the home of T. B. Beal.

R. R. Rives and J. T. Coggins, of Greensboro, were recent visitors near here.

Miss Ina Phillips has returned from Greensboro, where she had gone to have her tonsils and adenoids removed.

Messrs M. F. Norwood and son, Garland, R. L. Phillips, went to Winston-Salem last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Stamey Williams of Rt. 4, Sanford, were Sunday visitors at the home of D. A. Rives.

Mrs. J. Noah Fields is very sick. She having suffered a slight stroke of paralysis.

Mr. and Mrs. John Nall and three children and Miss Hettie Cobb, of Carthage, were Sunday visitors at E. J. McIver's.

R. W. Dowd was a visitor in Greensboro last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Moore have moved to Bonlee.

PHIL.

AN EPIDEMIC OF MEASLES.

Goldston News Items of Interest to Record Readers.

Goldston, May 5.—Very few homes have escaped the epidemic of measles, which has raged here. It is reported that thirteen homes here have them and in some instances four and five cases. All seem to be in mild form and we trust they will soon be well.

Miss Mary Griffin of Trinity college was the week end guest of Miss Margaret Barber.

Mrs. J. B. Goldston has been visiting relatives and friends in and around Goldston the past week.

Miss Edith Oldham has returned to Greensboro after spending the week at home.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Stinson and family motored to Hillsboro and Burlington Sunday.

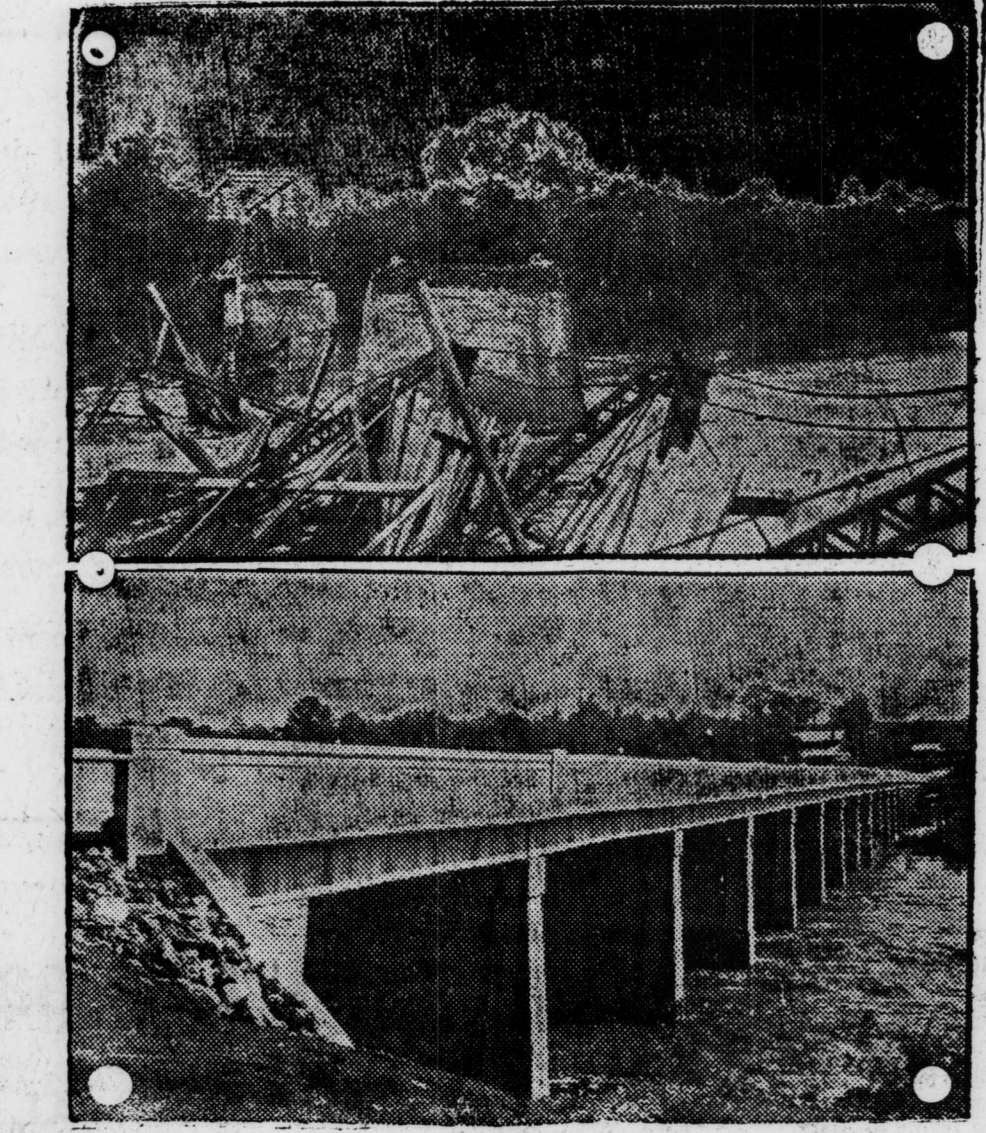
Mr. W. C. Caudle and family and Mrs. I. B. Hatch motored to Greensboro Sunday, spending the day with Grace Kate Hatch, who has had an operation at a hospital there, but has moved to the home of an aunt until able to return home.

The heavy rain of last Wednesday kept a goodly number from attending the graduating exercises at the Goldston high school. However, the attendance was very good. Prof. Highsmith, of Meredith College, delivered the address, using as his subject: "Co-operation." This was enjoyed by all who heard him. Those receiving diplomas were Miss Mildred Johnson, Miss Margaret Johnson, Miss Nellie Stinson, Miss Ollie Phillips, Ben Burke, Bernice Stinson, Clyde Stinson, David Goldston and Walter Stinson.

Miss Bessie Reynolds, who has attended school here for the past year, has returned to her home at Carthage.

The Pittsboro school will close next week, the commencement exercises running from May 15th to 19th.

IN THE PATH OF THE BIG STORM LAST WEDNESDAY.



The top picture shows the county bridge over Haw river at Pace's Mill, after the tornado Wednesday of last week had passed across it. The twister picked up the steel, gave it a few lusty churns and dumped the mass into the river, a bent and broken pile of debris.

The picture below shows where the tornado met its Waterloo. The concrete bridge at Bynum, a highway project completed about a year ago. This bridge is about three miles further down the river from Pace's mill and was also subjected to much of the wind. The storm bumped head-on into the work of bridge engineering. When the houses and trees settled back to earth again the bridge, as the picture shows, was still among those present, and not injured by one of the worst blows that ever skidded over North Carolina territory. It is not known what happened to the tornado after the collision with the concrete bridge.

By courtesy Raleigh Evening Times, we are enabled to print the illustration