

Sylvan Valley News

ONLY NEWSPAPER IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

J. J. MINER, OWNER AND MANAGER

A HOME PAPER FOR HOME PEOPLE—ALL HOME PRINT

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FT. WORTH FIRE SWEEP

300 FAMILIES HOMELESS AND \$2,500,000 PROPERTY DESTROYED BY FIRE AT FT. WORTH, TEX.

Fort Worth, Tex., April 5.—Starting in a barn, presumably from a carelessly thrown cigarette, fire destroyed property in the southern portion of Fort Worth, conservatively estimated in value to the extent of two and a half million dollars, caused the death of one person, J. J. Newton, of Krum, Texas, and rendered several thousand persons homeless.

The fire originated in the center of a fashionable residence district, and, fanned by a stiff wind, was beyond control within fifteen minutes after it was discovered.

Spreading to the south, it burned its way through thirty-two blocks and continued until it had swept through the yards of the Texas and Pacific railroad, destroying the railroad buildings and a large amount of rolling stock, where the fire practically burned itself out when nothing further remained in the pathway of the flames.

Three church buildings, the Broadway Baptist and Presbyterian and the Swedish chapel, were among the buildings destroyed, as was the Presbyterian sanitarium. The patients of the latter institution were all removed in safety.

The Texas and Pacific railroad suffered the largest individual loss. Fourteen locomotives were reduced to twisted masses of steel and iron, and several hundred box cars besides the round house and other buildings of the road were destroyed.

Texas & Pacific officials estimate the losses of the road at \$160,000, while the damage to the church property is estimated at \$200,000.

Postoffice Robbers Caught.

Greenville, S. C.—Garber Moore, alias "Tennessee Dutch," and George Barton, alleged "yeggmen," who were arrested in Birmingham, Ala., and who were brought here by postoffice inspectors on March 20 on a charge of having committed numerous postoffice robberies in this state, escaped from the county jail by dynamiting the floor of the cell. They drilled holes in the rock floor of the jail with a drill made of an umbrella handle. It is believed they had outside help. The night guard declares the men did not pass him, and that he was awake all night. Indications are that the drilling was done from a cellar under the cell occupied by the prisoners.

Woman on Trial for Life.

Lyons, N. Y.—With the execution of Mrs. Mary Farmer fresh in the mind of every one, the case of Mrs. Georgia E. Sampson, accused of shooting to death her husband, Harry Sampson, on Nov. 1, 1908, was called for trial.

Almost every one in Wayne county is acquainted with either the Sampson family or with the Allyn family, to which Mrs. Sampson belongs by birth. The prominence of the two families—Harry Sampson's uncle was the late Rear Admiral William T. Sampson, who commanded the fleet at Santiago, while the Allyn's are among the wealthy folks of this part of the state—has made the alleged murder the principal topic of conversation.

Three Men Convicted of Murder.

Raleigh, N. C.—After being out all night the jury in the trial of three men for the murder of Dr. E. W. Smith, of Richmond, Va., brought in a verdict of murder in the second degree against Earl Cotton, Tim Holderfield and E. A. Hopkins, otherwise known as "Red" Hopkins, young white man.

Judge Lyon, of the superior court, sentenced Cotton to thirty years in the penitentiary, the full limit, holding him as the leading spirit in the murder. Holderfield, because he was in the employ of Cotton, and because of the testimony that he was of good character, was sentenced to only ten years in the penitentiary. Red Hopkins was sentenced to two years.

St. Charles, Ill.—Fighting desperately for two hours with a monster eagle to keep his baby from the menacing talons of the great bird, Peter Johnson, a farmer, with the aid of neighbors, finally captured the king of the air.

LEADER BLACK HAND

DR. CUTRERA INVITES BLACK-MAILER TO HIS OFFICE WHERE POLICE ARREST HIM.

Chicago, April 3.—Vincenzo Geraci, who is said by the police to be the leader of the Chicago Black Hand society, was arrested here in the office of Dr. Peter Cutrera, from whom the Italian had demanded \$3,000 on pain of death.

Geraci, it is said, has given evidence concerning his associates in the plot, and the police expect to arrest several more members of the gang soon. It is thought the members of the Chicago society are in close touch with the New York gang, who brought about the death of Lieutenant Petrosini recently in Italy.

Dr. Cutrera several days ago received a threatening letter demanding \$3,000, but he paid no attention to it. A second letter was received. Then the physician received a telephone message from a man, who said he was one of those who had written the letters.

"Unless you pay us the money, you will be killed within an hour," said the man on the telephone.

Dr. Cutrera invited the man to come to his office. He prepared a dummy package of money, and sent for the police.

Detectives came at once and were concealed in an adjoining room.

Just as the physician was handing the dummy package of money over, the detectives jumped out and grabbed the blackmailer. Geraci fought hard, but was finally overpowered.

Rogers Opens New Road.

Norfolk, Va.—With the arrival of the first train of the new Virginian railway at Sewell's Point and the formal opening of the road by Henry H. Rogers, the financier, the favorite project of Mr. Rogers became a reality. For several years Mr. Rogers has been laboring to construct a railroad from the rich coal fields of West Virginia across Virginia to Tidewater. The crowning of his labors with success is the opening of the new road to regular traffic.

The cost of the road has been approximately \$40,000,000, about half of which has been put up by Mr. Rogers personally.

Daniel J. Sully to Help South.

Atlanta.—In these plain terms Daniel J. Sully, the man who drove cotton to its highest market price since the civil war, outlined the purpose of his visit to Atlanta and the southern states:

"When the farmers of the south and the business men of the south say the word, funds will be immediately available in sufficient volume to forever place the great industry of cotton production upon a stable foundation, free from the chance of fluctuations of the market, relieved of the attacks of manipulators and leaving the gigantic crop monopoly of this section to respond, unembarrassed and unrestricted, to the legitimate laws of supply and demand. The result should mean to the south an annual actual cash saving ranging from \$150,000,000 to \$250,000,000."

Champion Travers Sails.

New York.—Sailing on the Caledonia for Scotland was Jerome D. Travers, amateur golf champion of the United States, who is going abroad to test his skill against the best British players of the "royal game" on the historic links of Scotland and England.

Travers is entered in the British amateur championships, which will begin at Muirfield on May 24, and will practice on the British links before the championship games begin. He is modest in his hopes of success abroad.

Soldier Shot Self When Intoxicated.

Atlanta.—Ordered from the ranks of his company, charged with being intoxicated during dress parade, Private George B. Chaddock, of Company D, Seventeenth Infantry, shot and mortally wounded himself in his quarters at Fort McPherson. The shot took effect in the left breast, just above the heart, and within less than four hours death resulted.

CLERK STOLE \$100,000

DOWN ON \$900 A YEAR KEPT TWO RACE HORSES AND FOUR PRIZE FIGHTERS.

Baltimore, Md., April 2.—William F. Downs, young clerk in the office of the city register, is under arrest, charged with embezzlement of funds belonging to the city, probing into the matter which appears to reveal an even worse state of affairs in the city hall than had been expected. Downs was given hearing before Police Magistrate Johansson, during which State's Attorney A. S. J. Owens stated in asking that Downs be held, that the amount of money taken from the city would probably amount to \$100,000. Bail was fixed by the judge at \$50,000.

Downs is 26 years old, and has been married twice, his first wife having died. He has been living in a style very far beyond the means of a \$900 a year clerk, which he was receiving until recently, when he was promoted to a \$1,400 clerkship, much against his will. His peccadilloes appear to trace back to July 1, 1907.

He has been known widely as a lavish spender. He kept a couple of race horses, had a quartette of prize fighters regularly in his pay, spent much money on prize fights and horse races, sporting trips out of town and on women and dressed in expensive style. His home is splendidly furnished. He is reported to have said that his first wife left him a large fortune, and to others that he won heavily on horse races.

Downs is bonded in a local bonding company to the extent of \$3,000, and City Register Thomas to the amount of \$50,000. The latter bond, it is claimed, covers any defalcation in the city register's office, but this appears to be in some doubt.

Mexico Wants Diaz to Remain.

Mexico City, April 2.—Delegates came from all parts of the republic of Mexico to express to President Porfirio Diaz their loyalty to his administration and to request him not to give up the presidential office at the close of his present term.



PRESIDENT DIAZ.

The demonstration was the greatest and most brilliant affair of the kind ever held in Mexico. In the grand parade appeared thousands of men representing the various states of the republic, all dressed in the distinctive garb of their parts of the country. An interesting and striking feature of the parade was the division of aged veterans of the war with France for independence.

The parade ended at the national palace, where it was reviewed by President Diaz. The aged ruler received a delegation of well known men and expressed to them his pleasure at the demonstration. He declared that while health and strength remained to him they would be placed at the service of the republic.

Nashville, Tenn.—Officers of the department of internal revenue seized 9,000 barrels of liquor at the Cascade distillery, near Tullahoma, Tenn., on the charge that the distillers had violated the internal revenue acts. This number of barrels is said to be the equivalent of something like half a million gallons.

PRIEST BANKRUPT.

FATHER MCMAHON WAS INTERESTED IN FIDELITY FUNDING COMPANY WHICH FAILED.

Cleveland, Ohio, April 1.—Rev. William McMahon, pastor of St. Bridget's Catholic church, of Cleveland, and editor of the Catholic Universe, filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy in the United States court. In the petition, his total liabilities are stated to be \$1,594,141.64, with assets aggregating \$75,207.08, of which \$71,300 is real estate. The secured claims amount to \$946,925.73; unsecured claim \$371,209.91, and commercial paper \$185,918.

Father McMahon was a director of the Fidelity Funding Company, of New York, founded by P. J. Kieran, and which is now in the hands of receivers. Thus it came about that his name was signed to many of the papers issued by the company, and for which he now is held liable by the receivers.

The petition enumerates many notes signed by Father McMahon. Among the larger claims cited are the following:

Carnegie Trust Company, New York \$281,255.73; Guarantee Title and Trust Company, Pittsburg, \$185,000; Society for Savings, Cleveland, \$235,000; Third National Bank of Buffalo, \$3,200.

Cuba's Evacuation Day.

Havana, April 1.—For the first time in more than two years Cuba is free from the presence of American soldiers. The last of the troops who have been occupying the island sailed away on the transports Sumner and McClellan.

The withdrawal of the American troops is the final fulfillment of the promise of the Washington authorities that the soldiers would be sent home from Cuba when the republic showed its capacity to govern itself. The evacuation began at the time of the inauguration of President Gomez in January and has proceeded steadily.

James R. Whitman, Jr., Killed.

Atlanta.—Within less than thirty seconds after bidding good-bye to the young lady he had been visiting, young James R. Whitman, Jr., was horribly mangled and almost instantly killed by a street car which he was attempting to board immediately in front of her residence.

The young man was the son of J. R. Whitman, manager of the Cotton States Belting and Supply Company. He was associated in business with his father, holding a responsible position with the belting and supply company. He was a member of the Olympian Athletic Club.

Southern Life Sold to Standard Fayetteville, N. C.—The Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company, of Raleigh, N. C., purchased the business of the Southern Life Insurance Company. The Jefferson company, of which Joseph G. Brown is president, it is announced, will protect the policyholders of the Southern, and will reinsure them. The reinsurance agreement was approved by James R. Young, insurance commissioner of North Carolina.

The amount of insurance transferred is said to be about \$4,800,000.

Costly Fire at Norfolk.

Norfolk, Va.—Fire swept away an entire square of Pine Beach, causing heavy damage. More than a score of small buildings were destroyed.

The scene of the fire is in an area occupied by scores of small hotels and amusement places on the outside of the Jamestown exposition grounds and is adjacent to the new terminal of the H. H. Rogers Virginian railway.

BRIEF NEWS ITEMS.

Jasper, Ga.—Freeman Callahan was shot and killed by Will Hendrix. The row and killing occurred in Gordon county. The trouble seemed to have commenced at Callahan's home about one of Callahan's sisters.

Savannah, Ga.—J. L. Harrison, of Atlanta, is at the Parkview sanitarium here suffering from serious wounds received when he was struck by a Seaboard Air Line train at Scotia, S. C. He may die.

SOUTHEASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Operating the Transylvania Railroad.

No. Daily.	No. Daily.	(Eastern Standard Time.)	No. Daily.	No. Daily.
		STATIONS.		
4 05	8 05	Asheville.....At	9 15	5 45
		Biltmore.....		5 50
5 20	9 15	Headersonville.....	10 00	5 55
5 31	9 26	Yale.....	10 10	5 58
5 36	9 31	Hope Shoe.....	10 20	5 59
5 41	9 36	Cannoh.....	10 30	6 00
5 50	9 45	Iowa.....	10 40	6 01
5 56	9 51	Blantyre.....	10 50	6 02
6 02	9 57	Penrose.....	11 00	6 03
6 10	10 05	Davidson River.....	11 10	6 04
6 15	10 10	Pisgah Forest.....	11 20	6 05
6 30	10 25	Asheville.....	11 30	6 06
6 44	10 39	Selma.....	11 40	6 07
6 51	10 46	Cherryfield.....	11 50	6 08
6 55	10 50	Calvert.....	12 00	6 09
7 01	10 56	Rosman.....	12 10	6 10
7 19	11 14	Quebec.....	12 20	6 11
7 48	11 40	Lake Toxaway.....	12 30	6 12

For tickets and full information apply to E. W. CARTER, Ag't. J. H. WOOD, Dist. Pass. Ag't, Asheville, N. C.

County Government.

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

Register of Deeds—B. A. Gillespie.
Coroner—Dr. W. J. Wallis.

Commissioners—W. M. Henry, Ch'n; G. T. Lyday; W. E. Galloway.
Superintendent of Schools—T. C. Henderson.

Physician—Dr. Goode Cheatham.
Attorney—Gash & Galloway.

Town Government.

Mayor—T. W. Whitmire.
Board of Aldermen—T. M. Mitchell; F. L. DeVane; F. E. B. Jenkins; J. M. Kilpatrick; T. H. Shipman.

Marshal—J. A. Galloway.
Clerk and Tax Collector—T. H. Galloway.

Treasurer—T. H. Shipman.
Health Officer—Dr. W. J. Wallis.
Attorney—W. W. Zachary.

Professional Cards.

W. B. DUCKWORTH,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
Rooms 1 and 2, Pickelsimer Building.

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Will practice in all the courts.
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All work guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction.
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LAWYER
[General practice in all the Federal and State Courts.]
ASHEVILLE, N. C.

Entry No. 2545.

North Carolina—Transylvania County.
C. I. Owen enters and claims 24 acres more or less of land lying in Gloucester Township, on the west prong of French Broad river, adjoining the lands of Marion Owen and Jim Owen. Beginning on Marion Owen's south-west corner and runs various courses for complement, so as to include all adjoining vacant lands. Entered March 9, 1909.

B. A. GILLESPIE,
Entry Taker.

ORDINANCE AMENDED.

Please take notice that Sec. 15 of the laws and ordinances of the town of Brevard was amended at a special meeting of the Board of Aldermen Monday, March 15, 1909, as follows:

Sec. 15. All persons drumming for or soliciting passengers or baggage at the depot of the Southern R. R. Company, in the Town of Brevard, shall get no nearer the train while so drumming or soliciting than the east row of posts under the railroad shed at the said depot. Any person or persons violating the provisions of this ordinance shall forfeit and be liable to a penalty of ten dollars (\$10.00), and shall also be guilty of a misdemeanor.
T. W. WHITMIRE,
Mayor.