

Sylvan Valley News

ONLY NEWSPAPER IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A HOME PAPER FOR HOME PEOPLE—ALL HOME PRINT

VOLUME—XVII

BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1912.

NUMBER—12

DESPERADOES WIPE OUT ENTIRE COURT

ESCAPE TO THE MOUNTAIN CAVES

Most Shocking Tragedy of the
Age Occurs at Hills-
ville Va.

Floyd Allen, a mountaineer just sentenced to one year's imprisonment for aiding a nephew, who had been arrested, to escape, and a gang of his followers opened fire in court at Hillsville, Va., last Thursday morning and killed Judge Thornton L. Massie, Sheriff Webb, Commonwealth's Attorney W. M. Foster, and seriously wounded Dexter Goad, court clerk, and Jurors Fowler, Faddis and Kane, and a young lady witness. Juror Fowler died Saturday afternoon and the young lady witness died the following day as a result of her injuries. Floyd Allen was wounded, probably mortally. He is a merchant and is regarded as worth at least \$10,000.

Floyd Allen was so badly wounded that he was unable to escape, and is now locked up and under a heavy guard at Pulaski, Va. His son is also in custody, being held as a witness in the case. The rest of the band made their escape, and are now in hiding in the mountains near the North Carolina line, in a section known as "Devil's Den." Their refuge is supposed to be almost inaccessible, and it will possibly require a large force of men to storm the place and capture the desperadoes. Dynamite will possibly be used to gain entrance to the place.

Governor Mann of Virginia has offered a reward of \$1,000 each for the capture of the leaders of the band, supposed to number seventeen men. The North Carolina officers are keeping a constant watch in the counties adjoining Carroll county, Va. Hillsville, the county seat of Carroll, is about five miles from any railroad, and on account of the bad condition of the roads, is almost inaccessible.

The desperate mountaineers have announced that they will never be taken alive, and being well armed with modern revolvers and rifles there is imminent prospect of another terrible tragedy being enacted in the ravines and pockets of the Blue Ridge mountain range in southwestern Virginia when the numerous posses now led by Attorney General Williams comes upon them.

As is usual in such cases, a number of conflicting statements were sent out from Hillsville. One report, which was later found to be untrue, had it that Sida Allen, a brother of Floyd, had been captured and that his wife was killed in a desperate fight with the officers. Sida Allen was badly wounded in the fight in the court house but he made his escape, and is now at large in the mountains, and is supposed to be separated from his companions.

Judge Thornton L. Massie of Pulaski, who was presiding over the court, was the first victim of the attack. He had just passed sentence on Floyd Allen, and at signs of defiance from the mountain horde he had arisen to demand order and silence. Bullets ripped into his face and breast. Death was instantaneous, and he fell forward, his head and arms resting on the desk of the tribunal, his life blood staining the official paper which he had just executed consigning Floyd Allen to imprisonment at hard labor for one year.

As Commonwealth's Attorney W. M. Foster of Hillsville arose to protest and denounce the act a rain of bullets battered his head and he sank lifeless on the floor by his desk.

Then came the most heroic act of

the whole fight. Sheriff Webb of Carroll county had seen the judge and prosecutor fall dead, and from his position in the rear of the court room he furiously fought his way forward, opening fire with his revolver as he came. His face was literally torn to pieces by the return fire directed at him by the yelling, cursing murderers. As the sheriff fell, a lifeless corpse, Floyd Allen also went down with a bullet from the sheriff's revolver in his abdomen. In trying to reach the sheriff's side the court clerk, Dexter Goad, was shot through the neck, and as he went to the floor the mob turned their fire upon the jury box.

The court room had been crowded, but when the fight began the spectators made a rush for the outside. The onslaught had been so unexpected that not a hand was raised to stop the desperadoes as they mounted their horses and rode away to the mountains.

Judge Staples of the Virginia judiciary was immediately ordered to Hillsville by Governor Mann to resume court. He reported promptly and at once got together another jury and all the men were indicted. About thirty detectives and a host of possmen are now scouring the mountains, carefully guarding all approaches to the section known as "Devil's Den," where the men are supposed to be in hiding.

With the exception of the court clerk, the entire human fabric of the court was wiped out. These men had been in trouble before, and were considered desperate men. They have an agreement among themselves and have taken a pledge that none of their hand shall ever go to prison. Some of their number have been tried in Federal courts for counterfeiting and blockading.

ORPHAN CHILDREN'S CONCERT

We have the pleasing information that the Singing Class from the Oxford Orphanage will begin a tour of the state Monday, March 18, 1912.

We understand, on account of the growing demands for visits from the class, already many most cordial invitations having been received from Masonic Lodges in North Carolina, the management of the Institution has deemed it wise to divide the tour into three trips, in order to give the children of the class a rest between each trip.

The first of these trips will be through the northeastern portion of the state. The second will cover a portion of the Piedmont and western, and the third trip will take the class through a portion of the Piedmont and southeastern section.

The class never gives a concert in a town except by invitation and the dates are fixed considerably in advance of the entertainment which must be very necessary in such a continuous tour.

The class is composed of ten girls and four boys, the teacher and gentleman in charge.

Our people have learned to look forward and expect an entertainment of unusual attractiveness and excellence, given by the bright well trained girls and boys of this noble institution. The concerts last year were largely attended and reports of a delightful and most enjoyable hour spent at the concert exercises were received. Besides the pleasure, no cause appeals to us more strongly than the cause of the orphan child.

The concert, given by the children themselves, is of real merit, in the interest of a most worthy cause, naturally and rightly enlists our hearty sympathy and support. We most earnestly urge the active, hearty cooperation of all our people, and we believe it will continue to be secured, as heretofore, in helping the needy little ones.

We wish to express the sincere hope that the tour of the state by the gboys and girls this year will result in greatest success and blessings.

How lucky is it that the man in the moon is blind.

DEMOCRATS PASS A FREE SUGAR BILL

NOW GOES TO A REPUBLICAN SENATE

Democratic Candidates Offer
Many Reasons Why They
Should be Elected

The democratic party in the house of representatives has put the republicans in a hole and soaped the sides and pulled up the ladder. Their latest move has absolutely astounded the republicans and made their eyes bulge out like buckeyes on a mud wall. This consummation devoutly to be wished has been brought about by the move the democrats have made in bringing a bill in for free sugar and an amendment to the excise law which will produce the same amount of revenue cut off by free sugar. This proposition means by taking the tax off of raw sugar will cut down revenues of the government about \$50,000,000 per annum. By adding the amendment to the excise law, which will tax all incomes over \$5,000 a year one per cent, means that \$50,000,000 a year will be added to the revenues, thus adding not less than \$10,000,000 per annum more than was received by the sugar tax and saving the consumers of this country not less than \$100,000,000 a year in taxes and compelling the rich people of this country to pay that tax.

The democrats were very secretive concerning the sugar schedule until the night of the caucus where the whole thing was sprung as a surprise and unanimously adopted by the democrats in caucus as a democratic measure with the exception of the democrats from Louisiana and Colorado, the two big sugar producing states, one cane sugar and the other beet sugar.

It is claimed by some that if this bill becomes a law it will ruin the sugar industries of those two states and put nearly a half million people out of business. In the first place it will do no such thing. It will cut down their profits, perhaps a cent and a half a pound on sugar, which will go into the pockets of the consumers of this country and which the consumers of this country ought to be pleased at. Even if it did put that many people out of business what is 500,000 people compared to the interest of 90,000,000 people who use sugar every day on their tables?

The democratic house has already passed the free sugar bill and there is no doubt that they will speedily pass the excise or income tax which the Supreme court of the United States has already passed on and declared constitutional, and send them over to a republican senate. I am frank to say that I don't believe the republican senate will pass it, and if it does not the people of this country will know where to place the blame for their failure to save \$100,000,000 in taxes each year.

It may be interesting to the readers of this correspondence to know just exactly how the boomers of the different candidates are booming their favorites and the arguments they are using to convince the people that their man is the man to nominate.

Among the democratic candidates the Wilson boomers are boosting their man as the scholar in politics; the fact that he redeemed the state of New Jersey and made it a democratic state and his record as governor and the speeches that he has made all over the country since his election to that high office, being the first political position he ever filled. They also claim that Wilson is a progressive democrat of the progressives and that he will draw very largely from the republican vote in the coming elec-

tion if nominated.

The Harmon people are making much of the fact that their candidate has redeemed the state of Ohio, a rock-ribbed republican state heretofore, having twice been elected governor for that great state. They claim that he has saved the tax-payers of Ohio not less than \$25,000,000 since he has been governor by increasing the tax rate of corporations and compelling the railroads and others to pay their portion of the taxes which they have hitherto been dodging. They claim that he is conservative and will appeal to the conservative element of the business men of the country, and therefore make the most eligible candidate the democrats could name.

The Underwood boomers are saying the same thing about their candidate—that is, that he is a sane and safe conservative and would not run amuck to disturb the business interests of the country; that he has had great experience as a legislator and would make an ideal executive. Furthermore, they claim that coming from the South he would cement all sections of the country and that northern democrats would vote for him in order to show that all sectional feeling had been abandoned and elect him on his merits as a constructive statesman and a man who has been a formidable factor in welding the party together in the present congress.

The Clark boomers are simply urging their candidate upon his record in public life and claiming that the record is simply the record of the democratic party since 1888, when he first entered public life. They say that he has neither swerved to the right nor the left, but has been just an old-fashioned democrat, who has aided with voice and pen in every democratic campaign that has been fought in the last twenty-five years and has never said nor done a thing that he or his friends need ever apologize for from the standpoint of democracy; that he has been loyal to every democratic candidate who has ever been nominated and to every plank in every platform that has ever been adopted by a national convention.

So far as the republicans are concerned, the fight between Taft and Roosevelt is growing hotter and hotter each day. The Taft people have now got Colonel Roosevelt on the tenter hooks and have got him to explaining this and that every day. The Roosevelt people are howling now about the Taft methods of using federal patronage and the steam roller to elect Taft delegates, forgetting that Roosevelt did the same thing in 1908 when he was fighting the so-called allies in the republican party and nominating Taft for the presidency as his own particular and peculiar candidate.

It makes the democrats laugh to see this war in the republican ranks, because it means a party split wide open and a democratic president elected next November.
CHAS. A. EDWARDS.

A REMARKABLE CATHERING

For several summers past at a home near Brevard have met together those who were closely connected by kindred ties. They numbered a niece of an ante-bellum judge, nieces of an ante-bellum governor, a mother-in-law of a governor, daughter and grand-daughters of a Confederate brigadier general, daughter and grand-daughters of a judge.

Their common ancestor was a captain in the English navy at the time his eldest brother, the Duke of Oxford, was a secretary of state during the reign of Queen Mary. They were lineal descendants of Whigs who were members of "Marion's Men" of revolutionary fame—all Colonial Dames and all Daughters of the Confederacy.

It is nice to be handsome but it is good deal handsomer to be nice.

ASHEVILLE WOMAN COMMITS SUICIDE

TWENTY-FIVE MEN KILLED BY EXPLOSION

Two Women Held in Hawkins
Case—Other News Items
of the Week

Heavy Rain Causes Damage
An unusually heavy rain in the Piedmont section of this state falling last Thursday and Friday has caused much damage. The swollen streams swept bridges before it. The property loss is very great, and near Greensboro a small child was drowned while on her way home from school. The road the child had to take was submerged by the water from a cloud burst and in attempting to cross the child was swept into deep water and drowned before help could arrive.

Asheville Woman Suicides.
Mrs. Kathleen Leslie Doyle Lorillard, wife of Beckman Lorillard of Asheville, committed suicide late Saturday afternoon in the bathroom of her apartments in the Holland House, New York. Her husband discovered the body on his return from the hotel lobby where he had arranged to take his wife on an automobile ride. Mr. Lorillard told the coroner he knew of no reason why his wife should seek to end her life, the only explanation he could offer being that she had been suffering from nervous trouble which had temporarily deranged her mind. She appeared to be normal, he said, when fifteen minutes previously he had suggested the automobile ride. Mr. and Mrs. Lorillard were married in Asheville about ten years ago.

Two Women Indicted
In the preliminary hearing before Justice of the Peace R. M. Oats, of Hendersonville, Monday afternoon, Mrs. Lizzie Shaft, of Asheville, was bound to Superior court in the sum of \$5,000 and Mrs. Nora Britt, also of Asheville, was sent to the higher court under a bond of \$1,000, both of these women being charged with being accomplices before the fact in the murder of Myrtle Hawkins, whose dead body was found floating in Lake Oseola, last September. Seventeen witnesses were brought from Asheville to Hendersonville to attend the trial, although the testimony of only eight was taken, it having been stated by the officers at the conclusion of the trial that they desired only to introduce sufficient evidence to insure the holding of the prisoners and were unwilling to show just what they had in their reserve evidence.

Boiler Explodes.
Twenty-five men were killed, many more were injured and several buildings were wrecked when a locomotive boiler exploded in the Southern Pacific roundhouse at San Antonio, Tex., last Monday. The roundhouse and car repair shops were demolished and many working in them were hurt by falling walls. So mangled were the victims that there seemed no hope of piecing the fragments of bodies together sufficient to identify them. The victims were largely men who were employed as strike breakers. Strike breakers have been working at the Southern Pacific shops since the shopmen's strike began several months ago.

The locomotive was standing in the yard near the shops. The explosion came without warning. Parts of the roundhouse collapsed and several small buildings in the shop enclosure were wrecked. The round house caught fire. The half-ton jacket of the exploded locomotive boiler dropped several blocks distant, while the tender was catapulted several hundred feet.