



The Same Valley During Recent Flood



(Times Staff Photos)

## Plan Of Flood Control Of French Broad Valley Is Being Explained

(This is the second of a series of articles written for the Times by Thomas R. Eller, Jr., chairman of the Flood Control committee, Brevard Chamber of Commerce and vice chairman of the Transylvania county Flood Control committee.)

No one who has seen the French Broad River Valley in flood, or has looked at the pictures accompanying this article, can successfully deny the overwhelming need for flood control for this, the richest in the whole Tennessee valley.

Unfortunately, a recognition of the need does not imply agreement on the remedy. With this in mind, it may be well to review some of the statistics involved. The river ultimately drains into the Mississippi, so that if you were willing to walk around some rather large dams in between, and were a hearty soul, you might put your canoe in at Rosman and travel to New Orleans. Many cities, Asheville included, take their water from the river and dump raw sewage back into it.

The problem of flooding is not confined to Transylvania county, but is either the sole, or a contributing factor, of the problems of hundreds of thousands of people down stream.

Of course, while the "big picture" is always a concern of the federal government, and is particularly concerned in any approach developed by The Tennessee Valley Authority, we are concerned with the problem in Transylvania county, and how the flood control program would affect us. The local area affected is all of that area bounded by the Blue Ridge range on the South, and the Tennessee and Pisgah ridges along the West and North.

Approximately 187 thousand acres are involved of which 6.4 per cent, or 12 thousand acres, is in the flood plain. Of these 12 thousand acres, approximately 50 per cent need farm drainage for optimum production.

Rainfall in the French Broad river water shed averages about 63 inches per year, with variations as low as 51.51 inches in 1931 and as high as 80.96 inches in 1949.

Generally, rainfall by month is nearly uniformly distributed throughout the year. Average annual snow fall is approximately 10 inches. Of the average annual rainfall on the water shed, approximately 43.6 inches runs off. Presently, no town within the water shed takes its water directly from the French Broad river; however, the towns of Hendersonville and Brevard, and Olin Mathieson Chemical company secure their water supplies from tributaries of the French Broad river.

Pisgah National Forest accounts for 36 percent of the land in the water shed; the Du Pont company for 3 per cent; other forest holdings, 33 per cent; and farmers the remaining 28 per cent. Land owners live on approximately 90 per cent of these farms, either operating the farms themselves or renting a portion of their land on a yearly basis to large vegetable or flower producers. Over half of the flood plain area of 12 thousand acres is being flooded at least once a year and a considerable portion of the flood plain is flooded four or more times a year.

Geological calculations reveal that the entire 12 thousand acres in the flood plain can be expected

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## WILL RELOCATE BRIDGE ON 276

Approaches Will Also Be Improved. Commission Reviews Low Bid

Transylvanian motorists are glad to learn that the bridge on "yonside" of the mountain on US Highway 276 is going to be relocated and widened.

The North Carolina Highway commission has issued a call for bids on the project that would relocate the bridge over the East Fork of the Pigeon river.

Involved is 0.492 of a mile of grading, paving and structure and approaches.

The bridge is located between Wagon Road Gap and Cruso.

The low bid will be reviewed by the commission on Thursday, February 26th.

## Kiwanis Group Adds 57th New Member To Club

Jack Alexander, employment supervisor at Olin-Mathieson, was inducted into membership of Brevard Kiwanis club at the meeting last Thursday night, giving the local group its all-time high of 57 members.

The new member was inducted by Wayne Bradburn, chairman of Kiwanis education committee. He was introduced by Duncan Hunter.

## Manager Of Du Pont's Silicon Plant To Speak In Asheville

Members Of Lodge Of Perfection Will Hear An Address By Grogan

L. S. Grogan, plant manager of the Du Pont silicon plant located in Buck Forest, near Brevard, will be the principal speaker at the monthly meeting of the Lodge of Perfection at 8:00 o'clock in the Masonic temple in Asheville on Tuesday night, March 3rd, according to announcement by W. C. Bangs, Venerable Master.

Mr. Grogan will cover a brief description of the reasons for locating a silicon plant in Buck Forest. He will also discuss the product and its uses.

In addition he will cover to a limited extent the effects of government deficit spending on business, individuals and the economy in general.

Mr. Grogan will show some samples of the silicon which is being manufactured at the Brevard plant. Bert Noble, secretary of the

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LESLIE GROGAN

Thirty minutes of exposure to sun or wind can kill the small roots of pine seedlings.

## LOCAL BAND BACK FROM STATE EVENT

Highlighting Brevard's band's activities is their recent competition in the Western district band clinic held this year at Western Carolina college on January 31.

Among the entries were five clarinet players, Thea Shultze, Susan Farley, Carlene Watson, and Gayle Lance. Other entries included Ann Brittain, oboe; Sarah Nicholson, bass clarinet; Don Wau-

chope, Judy Mims and Tommy English, French horn; and Martha Sader, flute.

The band plans to go to Greensboro this spring to take part in the state competition. Last year they won a superior rating in this event.

Last week the annual concert for the P-TA was given in the auditorium for an appreciative audience.

## Henderson Will Give Report At Meeting Thursday

The stated communication of Dunn's Rock Masonic lodge will be held in the Masonic temple on East Main street on Thursday night, February 26th, beginning at 8:00 o'clock, according to announcement by W. C. Bangs, worshipful master.

The master states that Henry R. Henderson, secretary, will give report on last year's work, which will be of interest to all members. The report will be taken from the annual grand lodge returns, which have been sent to the grand secretary for his approval. The financial report for last year will also be read by the secretary.

## Robinson Aboard USS Minesweeper

William J. Robinson, fireman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Robinson of 309 W. Lane St., Brevard, aboard the minesweeper USS Sturdy, is on a six-month cruise with Mine Division 81 in the Mediterranean.

The division left Charleston, S. C., in January and while in the Middle East will operate as a unit of the U. S. Sixth Fleet.

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