

# The French Broad Hustler.

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HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1911

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

## Flood Waters Sweep Many to Death

### Mill Dam Near Austin, Loosens Mighty Torrent

Five Hundred Million Gallons of Water Break Through Dam With Mighty Roar and Rush Down Upon Towns and Valley, Where Fires Add to Horror.

Deaths of Catastrophe  
Dam of the Bayless Pulp & Paper company burst one mile and a half north of town.

Fire follows bursting of natural gas mains.

Scores of persons caught beneath debris and slowly cremated.

Over 1,000 buildings wrecked.

Heavy rains of past two weeks caused reservoir to fill for first time since erected two years ago.

Food supply has been swept away.

Costello, town of 450 people, below Austin, swept away.

Coadersport, Pa., Sept. 30.—With a roar that could be heard for miles the great dam of the Bayless Pulp & Paper company, at Austin, Pa., four miles from here went out at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon.

The dam which was 130 feet long and 49 feet high, was 32 feet thick at the base and held back more than 500,000,000 gallons of water. For the few times since its construction, two years ago the water was running over the top of the draw today and many persons went out from Austin a mile and a half away, to see the unusual sight.

They were panic stricken when a section about 20 feet wide gave way on the west side. A great volume of water poured through the hole and the alarm was quickly sounded. People ran for their lives to the hills nearby, but many were caught in the flood and whirled down the valley. A moment later another break occurred, this time in the east side. It was much greater than the first and permitted the bulk of the water behind it to rush in a mighty volume toward the lowlands, carrying screaming humanity with it.

Operator Spreads Alarm.  
Harry Davis, a locomotive engineer, reached a telephone and notified the operator at the exchange. She called as many persons as possible but the time was short.

The raging flood tore down the little valley, carrying death on its debris-covered crest. Many women and children, the men were away at work, were caught in their homes and drowned or crushed before they knew what had happened. Houses went down before the mighty crush of water, and gas pipes, bent and broken released their dangerous floss. Before the water had passed on its terrible course through the town, a dozen fires were burning in as many places and the cries of injured and imprisoned persons in the terrific thunder of the flood.

Gas Takes Fire.  
Austin, Pa., Sept. 30.—A dangerous situation developed immediately after the great wall of water had passed. Austin is piped for natural gas and the great force of the flood tore the mains from the streets. One of them, the largest pipe in the town, burst in the business section. A moment afterward the gas gushed out and in a twinkling it had taken fire. There was no explosion but the flames leaped to a height of seventy feet or more, and, blown by a strong wind, was communicated to the nearest house. In ten minutes a dozen other gas pipes had burst and were pouring their deadly inflammable fluid into the air. Men who had rushed forward in the hope of doing some good were overcome and fell, while others were caught in the flames and incinerated. The street became a glowing hell and there was no salvation for those who chanced to be near. How many perished at this point is not known.

Death by Fire and Water.  
Austin has little fire protection at best and with this swept away by the flood and no one left to man the little apparatus the town possessed, the progress of the flames was uninterrupted. Rapidly they swept from house to house, leaping streets and alleys and fed by the continual supply of gas from bursting mains there was no staying their progress. They licked up what the water had left.

Women and Children.  
Women and children there were among the wounded and dying, but among the scores of men who might at other times have braved death to save the lives of the unfortunate there was none to dare.

Down at the shops of the Buffalo & Susquehanna railroad history was in the making. The buildings were located below the business section in the banks of Freeman run and were more substantial than most of the houses which had been swept away by the flood. When the great mass of crushed and broken timbers, representing the homes of a few before, came crashing down they lodged

against the shops. The impact was great that the buildings shivered and walls were crushed in. But the brick stood and formed a barrier at which flotsam and jetsam of the flood found lodgement.

Caught at Machines.  
Here, as elsewhere, the natural gas pipes burst and as the shops were, in operation fire was quickly communicated to the heterogeneous mass. Men were caught before they could leave their machines. Some of them were crushed to death without a warning, but others less favored of fortune, were pinned down and met horrible deaths in the rapidly kindling flames.

Nearby was the plant of the Standard Lumber company. It had on hand a large stock of stove wood ready for shipment. When the pipes burst there the burning gas broke through the building and it was soon destroyed. Here, too, debris had piled high and the luckless ones who had been swept down stream met death at this point.

For hours the machine shops and the lumber plant burned. And the odor of burning flesh was so strong as to drive many persons from the scene. How many died here will never be known.

Futile Efforts.  
Here is where the first organized effort at relief was made. Maddened by the sights about him, one man, with tears streaming down his cheeks, cried for volunteers to save the lives of men whose cries for help were gradually growing fainter. The wreck of the Austin Hardware company had been swept from its location on Main street to the lumber mill. Here were buckets in abundance and there was the little stream, still swollen although the force of the flood had passed. Seizing a bucket this unknown hero dashed into the stream, filled it with water and calling for help ran toward a point where it appeared one man might be saved. Others followed his example. But to no purpose. Gas and heat combined to drive them back and they eventually gave up the battle.

Crushed to Death.  
Over at the paper mill, the great factory where so many of the people of the town find employment, the situation was little better. Although not so many persons were killed, some of them were crushed beyond recognition when a part of the factory went down before the water. It, too, caught fire and the scenes to which the half paralyzed people were rapidly becoming accustomed were re-enacted.

One little girl, she could not have been more than fifteen years old, had been caught in the crush. The flames were approaching her with the rapidity only equalled by the speed of the flood which had made her plight possible. Pinned down under a heavy timber, one leg crushed, it was impossible for her to free herself. No one seemed to know her name but her cries for help were not unheeded as in the fire at the machine shops an unknown man rose to the occasion. Running into a part of the factory not destroyed by the flood he seized an axe and, returning to the spot where the helpless child was imprisoned, he chopped at the timber. But his strength gave out.

Doctor's Heroic Stroke.  
Meantime a crowd had gathered. There were not more than a dozen men but when a volunteer showed signs of weakening another sprang forward, snatched the axe from his hand and attacked the timber with vigor. Meantime the fire was approaching. The heat drove him. Another took his place and they say he was a doctor whose family had not been seen since the flood of a few hours before.

He saw at a glance the fire would be upon them before the timber would be made to yield. Carefully he looked at the girl. Then with calm precision he levelled the axe at the helpless victim—a stroke or two and it was over. The leg was severed. Willing hands caught up the poor scorched and bleeding girl and carried her to the hospital on the hill. She may die from shock.

Warning Too Brief.  
The contents of the great dam, which was filled to overflowing by the heavy rains of two weeks, swept through a natural gorge in which the towns of Austin and Costello were situated. While many of the residents of Austin escaped to the hills bordering each side of the town the warning given by the blasts of the Bayless mill whistles was too brief for hundreds of others.

The catastrophe paralleled in many respects the destruction by flood of Johnstown, Pa., in 1889 in which over two thousand lives were lost.

Work of Rescue.  
Within an hour of the first general knowledge of the calamity special trains bearing physicians, nurses and food supplies were on the way to the scene. Hundreds of automobiles bearing rescuers also tolled over the rough and tortuous mountain roads

## LOCAL ITEMS

J. O. Bell of Tuxedo, was a visitor in the city this week.

Judge J. H. Merrimon of Asheville, is attending court here.

Wm. J. Cooke of Asheville, was in the city one day last week.

Mrs. Coats of Asheville, is visiting her mother, Mrs. A. B. Freeman.

Tom Staton, a prominent citizen of the Flat Rock section is attending court this week.

Judge B. F. Long of Statesville is holding criminal court in Hendersonville this week.

Former Solicitor J. F. Spainhour, of Morganton, is a visitor in the city during court week.

W. R. Hyder raised sweet potatoes 9 to the half bushel by using T. B. Carson's fertilizer.

The U. D. C's met Wednesday with Mrs. Ethel Dixon at her home on Washington street.

Quite a number of people went over to Asheville last Tuesday night to witness Madam Sherry at the Auditorium.

Miss Dora and Diamond Grimmitt left Tuesday for Selma, Ala., to be with their sister, Mrs. Goodloe who is very ill.

Sclittor A. Hall Johnson arrived in the city last Monday and is busy looking after the States interest in the criminal term of Superior court here.

A meeting of the Asheville Presbytery at Oakdale church at Rugby began last Monday and will last through Thursday.

G. W. Brooks left this week for Wilaka, Fla., where he will remain for the winter. Mr. Brooks's family will leave for Florida in about a month.

The third marriage of prominent young Southern couples which Rev. R. B. Grinnan has been called upon to perform was last Monday when Miss Saurie D. Fulton of Savannah, Ga., became the bride of F. M. Kilham, a prominent business man of Macon, Georgia.

A dance was given out at the Casino last Wednesday by the young men of the city complimentary to the visiting young ladies in the city. Quite a number of couples journeyed out on the dummy an denjoyed several hours of delightful dancing.

D. E. Stepp has bought the stock of goods formerly owned by A. L. Tabor and is now conducting a first class grocery stand in the same old stand next to the Palace Theater. Mr. Stepp conducts a meat market in the rear of this store.

Rev. R. M. Courtney left Monday for his home in Thomasville after holding one of the most successful revivals ever witnessed at the Methodist church. His sermons were thoroughly enjoyed by the many who attended the meetings. It is thought that much good has been wrought by these services and that a number of converts will probably be added to the enrollment of the church.

G. P. Hill, one of the county's most substantial citizens was in the city Tuesday attending court. Mr. Hill states that the corn crop in his section of the county was looking fine and he is of the opinion that this year's crop will out class any previous one. "We farmers in Edneyville will not have to buy feed out of the state this year, we have raised it ourselves," explained Mr. Hill. While being very much interested in farming Mr. Hill is also one of the most enthusiastic good road men of this county.

Eli Rhodes.  
Another good soldier of the civil war has gone to rest. Eli Rhodes departed from this world at a ripe old age of 60 years. He was a faithful citizen and a member of the Methodist church and rarely did he miss a service until about 2 years ago when his health began to fail.

I have known him nearly all my life and I firmly believe that Eli Rhodes never once voted anything but a straight democratic ticket. I know that he has been a constant reader of the Hustler since it has been started. He died in full faith of our Maker and one of the last hymns he sang was "Come view the ground where you must shortly live." Eli has gone but will long be remembered by those who know him.

G. W. LYDA.

Miss Brett of Newport News, Va., is a guest of the Misses Waldrop, at their Broad street home.

Miss Josephine Clifton of Aberdeen, Miss., is the attractive guest of Miss Amy Edwards for a few days.

Miss Lucy Monk, of Selma, Ala., who has been the guest of Miss Roach at the Waldrop place on Broad street, has left for Asheville. She will spend several days there.

## HIGHLAND LAKE

Highland Lake Club closed on the first of October, the last week of the season having been characterized by many delightful social functions. On Sunday evening Mrs. T. C. Watts of Montgomery, Mr. Crensen of Savannah and Mr. Lockwood of Montgomery contributed to a very delightful musical program. On Monday evening the Club gave its final bridge party, the prize being won by Mr. Marshall of Charleston.

Perhaps the most charming affair of the season was an evening party at which Mrs. J. Mc Tharin and Miss Elizabeth Howard Tharin entertained, in honor of Mrs. Delancey Vincent of New Orleans and Mrs. Butts of Vicksburg.

Last and least in the list of social functions, if the age and size of the host be considered, was a birthday party to which Mr. Joseph Holt, Jr.'s friends were bidden to pay obeisance to the fourth mile post which marks his young existence. Each tiny tot, be-ribboned and be-ribboned, attested their appreciation of the important occasion with some dainty gift for the little host, and by way of reciprocity, a big birthday pie was provided, into which each guest "put a thumb and pulled out a plum, and said what a smart boy am I." On a pretty decorated table a big birthday cake formed a pedestal for four red candles aflame with diminutive importance, and surrounding the central decoration was "sugar and spice and everything nice" which the fond heart of a fond mother could supply. Needless to say the occasion was one never to be forgotten, and oft to be repeated through the years.

## GREENVILLE'S NEXT MOVE

Its now up to Greenville county to show whether the officials of that county mean business or not. The Henderson county chain gang has begun work on the Hendersonville-Greenville highway and with the grades made by the county surveyor from the top of the mountain at the state line there is indications that the road will be well underway by the first of the year.

Several weeks ago a committee of prominent citizens of this city went to Greenville in an automobile and were met by a delegation of Greenville citizens and county officials. Those in the party were, Messrs. Jno. L. Orr, U. G. Staton, F. S. Wetmur, and Geo. B. Justice, county supervisor. These gentlemen were met by a delegation headed by prominent Greenville men among whom were Messrs. George W. Serrine J. W. Thackston, J. H. Allen and J. P. Goodwin county supervisor.

The Hendersonville-Greenville highway has been agitated for a long time. At a good roads meeting in this city this summer the highway was thoroughly discussed. Several handsome subscriptions were made by prominent visitors who were interested in the completion of the connection link of this section of the county and the National highway.

## TAX COLLECTORS REPORT

County Tax Collector V. C. V. Shepherd made his annual statement to the county commissioners last Monday for the tax receipts for 1910. Mr. Shepherd feels highly complimented in the record he has made in collecting taxes for his county. The increase in tax for 1910 from that of 1909 is said to have been large.

It is interesting to note that the valuation of county property for this year will be over half a million dollars more than ever before.

October 1 ended Mr. Shepherd's first term as tax collector office. His re-election last spring gives him the office for the next two years. Yesterday the commissioners heard the report and passed on the required bond furnished by Mr. Shepherd.

Kitchin and Common People.  
No living man in North Carolina stands so near to the great common people as Governor Kitchin. Had he lived in the days of the great civil war in England he would have been found fighting in the ranks of Cromwell. While he is kingly in his bearing and while no cavalier was more knightly, still Kitchin is a man of the people. The laborer bowed beneath the load of daily toil, the farmer scattering the seeds or gathering the golden sheaves, the man behind the plow, at the open furnace, in the busy marts of trade, or wherever honest labor is earning daily bread by the sweat of an honest face; these men are the men to whose service Governor Kitchin's life is consecrated.—Yanceyville Sentinel.

## FREE DELIVERY LIMITS MADE FOR LOCAL POSTOFFICE

The equipment for the free city delivery has been ordered for the local postoffice and in fact some of the furniture and fixtures have already arrived.

Postmaster Jackson says that the delivery will probably be installed and ready for work December.

An examination for city mail carriers will be held in the county court house October 14th. There is to be two carriers for this city and one substitute. One of the most important items in getting the system started was the delivery limits arranged. Free delivery will not extend in every part of the city limits. There are restrictions as to where a carrier is allowed to go, an inspector has been in the city some time getting the limits made.

The limits are given below showing the exact location of the routes to be made by the two carriers of the free mail delivery. In proportion to routes in larger cities these routes are said to be large ones. This may be the cause of the local postoffice soon getting additional carriers as the business increases.

The following is the limits given out by the local postoffice authorities: City delivery limits.

All of main street from South 4th ave. to 9th ave.

All of Church st. from South 4th Ave. to 8th ave.

All of Buncombe street from 1st ave. to 9th ave.

All of Oakland street from 6th ave. to 9th ave.

All of Flemming street from 1st ave. to 9th.

All of Justice street from 3rd ave. to 6th ave.

All of Oak street from 3rd ave. to 5th ave.

All of King street from South 4th ave. to 7th ave.

All of Grove street from South 3rd ave. to 7th ave.

All of Pine street from South 3rd ave. to 6th ave.

All of Locust street from 7th ave. to 8th ave.

All of Maple street from 7th ave. to 8th ave.

All of Williams street from 5th ave. to Jones street.

All of Barker street to Jones street to 7th ave.

All of First street from 7th ave. to Jones street.

All of Second street from 7th ave. to Pace ave.

All of Jones street from 1st street to Southern Railway.

All of Pace ave. from 2nd street to Barker street.

All of Washington street from South 4th ave. to 5th ave.

All of 9th ave. from Oakland ave. to Main street.

All of 8th ave. from Oakland ave. to Southern Railway.

All of 7th ave. from Church street to 2nd street (across Railroad.)

All of 6th ave. from Justice street to Williams street.

All of 5th ave. from Oak street to Williams street.

All of 4th ave. from Oak street to Southern Railway.

All of 3rd avenue from Oak street to Southern Railway.

All of 2nd ave. from Oak street to Southern Railway.

All of 1st ave. from Washington street to Southern Railway.

All of 2nd ave. from Fleming street to Southern Railway.

All of 3rd ave. South from Washington street to Transylvania railroad.

All of 3rd ave. South from Washington street to Transylvania railroad.

All of 4th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 5th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 6th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 7th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 8th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 9th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 10th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 11th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 12th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 13th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 14th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 15th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 16th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 17th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 18th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 19th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 20th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 21st avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 22nd avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 23rd avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 24th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 25th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 26th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 27th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 28th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 29th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 30th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of Grove street from South 3rd ave. to 7th ave.

All of Pine street from South 3rd ave. to 6th ave.

All of Locust street from 7th ave. to 8th ave.

All of Maple street from 7th ave. to 8th ave.

All of Williams street from 5th ave. to Jones street.

All of Barker street to Jones street to 7th ave.

All of First street from 7th ave. to Jones street.

All of Second street from 7th ave. to Pace ave.

All of Jones street from 1st street to Southern Railway.

All of Pace ave. from 2nd street to Barker street.

All of Washington street from South 4th ave. to 5th ave.

All of 9th ave. from Oakland ave. to Main street.

All of 8th ave. from Oakland ave. to Southern Railway.

All of 7th ave. from Church street to 2nd street (across Railroad.)

All of 6th ave. from Justice street to Williams street.

All of 5th ave. from Oak street to Williams street.

All of 4th ave. from Oak street to Southern Railway.

All of 3rd avenue from Oak street to Southern Railway.

All of 2nd ave. from Oak street to Southern Railway.

All of 1st ave. from Washington street to Southern Railway.

All of 2nd ave. from Fleming street to Southern Railway.

All of 3rd ave. South from Washington street to Transylvania railroad.

All of 3rd ave. South from Washington street to Transylvania railroad.

All of 4th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 4th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 5th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

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All of 7th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 8th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 9th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 10th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 11th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 12th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 13th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 14th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 15th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 16th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 17th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 18th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 19th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 20th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 21st avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 22nd avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 23rd avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 24th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 25th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 26th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 27th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 28th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 29th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

All of 30th avenue South from Washington st. to Transylvania railroad.

## CRIMINAL COURT BRINGS MANY FARMERS TO TOWN THIS WEEK

Criminal term of Superior court convened here Monday morning for a two weeks term. Judge B. F. Long of Statesville presides over the court.

With one of the largest dockets in the history of the county Judge Long is rapidly disposing of the many minor criminal cases before him. Fines were imposed in rapid succession and where the case seems to justify it Judge Long does not let up as to the amount of the fine.

Perhaps the first time in the history of the county last Monday one of the colored prisoners escaped from the court house just after he had

submitted his case of carrying concealed weapon and had been fined \$35.00 by the judge. It seems that the deputy who had been standing by the negro prisoner was sent to the door to quiet the disturbance of loud talking. The acting sheriff was also busy with other matters and the negro was apparently at his leisure. He immediately made his exit and so far no traces have been made of his whereabouts.

There is some speculation as to when the negro murder case will be tried. It is likely that it will come up near the end of this term of court.

WEST DOWN ON TAFT.

Mr. Shipman Gives First Hand Impressions on National Politics

(Greensboro News.)

Hon. M. L. Shipman, commissioner of labor and printing, was in the city yesterday afternoon en route to Raleigh from Lincoln, Neb., where he had been to attend the convention of the International Association of Labor Commissioners. Mr. Shipman made an address before the convention in which he gave many interesting facts about North Carolina. The convention met last year at Hendersonville, while in 1912 it is to meet in Washington.

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