

# THE NEWS-RECORD

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## GREAT DAMAGE DONE BY STORM IN MADISON COUNTY MONDAY

### Many Homes and Other Property Destroyed By Wind Monday

#### ONE MAN KILLED AND MANY MORE OR LESS INJURED IN STORM STRICKEN SECTIONS

Little Pine Section Worst Hit Of Any

#### National Red Cross To Assist Desolate People In Regaining Homes

In the space of two or three minutes last Monday afternoon, property amounting to thousands and thousands of dollars was destroyed by the worst wind storm ever known in this section in the memory of the oldest people. Scores of homes were completely destroyed or damaged almost beyond repair. Hundreds of people have visited the sections to look with their own eyes upon scenes which cannot be described in words or pictures. So great is the damage and so general in that section that the National Red Cross and Federal Relief organizations will help to restore the property to the point where the people can help themselves. One man of the Little Pine section suffered a crushed skull when his house was literally blown a considerable distance to a field on the other side of the road and crashed with him and his wife and son in it. The wife was seriously injured, the son slightly injured, and Mr. Sluder died that night at 9:30 from the injuries.

Visited by photographers and news writers of the Asheville Citizen and Asheville Times, the catastrophe was about as well described as could be done in words and pictures, and in this description we are quoting largely from those papers. Wednesday's Citizen says:

Residents of the Little Pine Creek, Bear Creek, and Bailey's Branch sections, south and west of Marshall, Madison county, began counting their losses today following the destructive freak wind storm of late yesterday afternoon which resulted in the death of one man, the injury of at least 10 other persons, and property damage amounting to at least \$50,000. The property losses include the destruction of one church building, damage to two other church structures; the destruction of numerous dwellings and barns, damage to other houses, barns and corn cribs, and the destruction of forest stands, thousands of trees having been uprooted or snapped off at the trunk. The storm, which cut a mile-wide path for a distance of 10 or 12 miles in the area across the French Broad river from Marshall, left in its wake

60 or more homeless persons who have sought temporary shelter in the homes of relatives or friends. The wind storm, which was one of a series of such disturbances reaching back across the country, was due to a low-pressure area. Victims of the wind, in describing the storm, said dark clouds gathered suddenly, and without warning, the full force of the wind struck the section. Within 10 or 15 minutes it had subsided, leaving a pathway of destruction along a mile-wide strip. A. F. Sluder, 64-year-old farmer of the Little Pine Creek section, was fatally injured in the storm which wrecked his home. His skull was crushed when the wind carried his house across the road and deposited it in a field adjoining the creek. He died at 9:15 o'clock last night at the home of a neighbor where he was

carried after the fury of the wind had subsided. The list of injured includes the following: Mrs. A. F. Sluder, several broken ribs. Baxter (Back) Ledford, injured hand. Fred Redmon, 15, injured hand. Mrs. Lyda J. Brown, badly bruised leg. Gracie Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lyda J. Brown, injured arm. Mrs. Lloyd Dockery, flesh of leg badly lacerated and torn. Wesley Fortner, shock and bruises. Mrs. Wesley Fortner, shock and bruises. Eugene Ward, cuts and bruises on head. Mrs. Eugene Ward, slight bruises. Relief agencies were making plans today to go into the sections to assist those in distress. The Red Cross is expected to lend assistance to those in need. First signs of the storm were found by newspaper men today as they drove over the Little Pine road at a point about six miles from Marshall. On a little knoll, just above Little Pine Creek, stood the home of Baxter (Back) Ledford, a farmer. Today the scene was a picture of destruction: The five-room frame house had been destroyed and the lumber from the dwelling was scattered over the nearby fields. In a tree, 100 yards away, was a piece of clothing, put there by the wind. No one was injured at this house with the exception of Ledford, whose hand was cut. Farther up the creek there is a little settlement that has grown around the general store of Roberts and Ledford. Here the storm centered its fury, leaving in its wake badly damaged buildings. The Caney Fork Missionary Baptist church building in this little settlement was destroyed, its parts being scattered in the fields and along Little Pine Creek. Wiley Roberts' home was damaged on the roof, and a plank, blown from the



Remains of mountain homes, such as this, were left by the wind storm which swept through a section of Madison county late Monday afternoon. The photo shows what is left of the one-story cement block house that belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Lyda J. Brown on Shoal Hill road in Little Pine Creek section. The wind forced the walls outward, thereby saving its occupants from serious injury. Mrs. Brown's leg was injured and her daughter, Gracie, suffered an injury to her arm.

—Above cut and description courtesy Asheville Citizen and Asheville Times

church building, was driven by the wind through the back wall of the house and into a dresser in one of the living rooms. The plank forced the dresser aside. The roof of another house, owned by Wiley Roberts, was damaged, and the store, owned by Roberts and Ledford, was badly damaged at the rear. Three of Wiley Roberts' stock barns were blown to the ground, and although his cattle were uninjured, men had to dig into the debris before they could be freed. A large chicken house was blown into the creek.

At this place, a large piece of the timber from the church building was blown 400 feet against the bridge across Little Pine creek, demolishing the railing. All along the way up Little Pine creek uprooted trees or trees snapped off at their trunks, were in evidence. Debris was scattered in all directions and gardens along the creek bottoms were ruined.

Half a mile up the creek from Wiley Roberts' place was the home of his uncle, Bud Roberts. Here no one was injured, but the house, a two-story frame structure, was practically demolished. The walls remain standing, but the interior is exposed. Three barns, a corn crib, and a corn mill were swept away by the wind. At the mill only the floor and machinery were left in place. The top of a small house, near the Bud Roberts' home, lost its roof. The house was occupied by Wayne Roberts.

About 600 feet up Little Pine creek from the Bud Roberts' place was the home of A. F. Sluder, where the storm caused the greatest tragedy. Mr. and Mrs. Sluder and Mrs. Sluder's 15-year-old son, Fred Redmon, were in the three-room frame structure, which was built on a knoll above the creek. When the storm came, the wind swept the knoll almost bare, carrying the house, with its three occupants, down the hill, across Little Pine creek road, and deposited it in the bottom lands near the creek bed. As the house settled, it fell apart, leaving nothing but pieces of wood and household furnishings scattered over the field. Mr. Sluder's skull was crushed. He was carried by neighbors to a nearby house where he died last night. Mrs. Sluder suffered several broken ribs and the Redmon boy, who sought a haven of refuge behind a stove, escaped with the exception of an injured hand.

Still farther up the creek and on a steep hill on the Shoal Hill road, Lyda J. Brown and his family suffered the loss of their five-room home, which was built of cement blocks. —(Carried to last page)



The destruction of the house, the remains of which are shown here, caused the death of its owner, A. F. Sluder, 63-year-old farmer of the Little Pine Creek section. The wind picked up the three-room house, which was on a knoll, carried it across the road, and deposited it in a field. As the house settled, it fell apart. Sluder's skull was crushed and he died Monday night.

—Above cut and description courtesy Asheville Citizen and Asheville Times

#### Widow Is Left Homeless By Storm



Wreckage, such as shown above at the Wilson place on Bailey's Branch, was left in the mile-wide path of the terrific wind storm that struck the section south and west of Marshall, in Madison county, late Monday afternoon. The photo shows Mrs. Silas Wilson, 70-year-old widow, and her two grandchildren surveying the remains of their log home. They escaped injury. When asked about her experiences during the storm, Mrs. Wilson, still able to smile in spite of all her troubles, replied: "I don't know what happened."

—Above cut and description courtesy Asheville Citizen and Asheville Times

#### Marshall Seniors Banquet

The Marshall high school seniors were delightfully entertained at a banquet Friday night, March 15, 1935, given in their honor by the junior class. All the seniors present seemed to be present blessed with good appetites because loads of delicious food disappeared in a very short time. The junior boys made very efficient waiters. The St. Patrick's Day color scheme of green and white was beautifully carried out. Ray Frisby gave a toast to the senior class. Tom Rudisill, senior class president, responded to this toast. Lola Ball gave a short reading. Bruce Hunter, the other junior class president, gave a toast to the faculty. Mr. Dillard responded in behalf of the faculty. June Elaine Ramsey gave a reading and sang "My Wild Irish Rose", with the entire group joining her in the chorus. Robert Bryan, senior class poet, recited a poem pertaining to the banquet. Many songs were sung by both classes. An unusually good time was enjoyed by everyone.

HELEN DENNIS,  
Senior Class Reporter.

#### Special Music At Presbyterian Church Next Sunday

Mr. A. L. Roberts and the "Gospel Team" of singers will be at the Presbyterian church in Marshall next Sunday morning at 11:00 o'clock. The affidavits to the Commissioner of public and especially the young boys and girls are invited to hear these young people from the Farm Schoolholders by July 1st, 1935.

at Swannanoa. Mr. Roberts will be remembered as having spoken here at the Presbyterian church two weeks ago.

#### BANK STOCKHOLDERS RELIEVED OF DOUBLE LIABILITY

In the interest of relieving the stockholders in the Banks in Madison County of double liability on their stock holdings in these institutions, Mr. Williams from the Examining Staff of the State Banking Department was in Marshall March 21, 1935.

The Legislature Friday, March 15, passed the Lindsay Bill (H. B. No. 185) and it was immediately ratified. It makes the following provisions for relieving stockholders in State banking institutions of double liability:

1. Publication by the Bank in a newspaper having general circulation in the community where the bank is located, once each week for four consecutive weeks PRIOR to May 1st, 1935, of the bank's interest to seek such relief.
2. Mailing written notice to each depositor and to each other creditor PRIOR to May 1st, 1935.
3. Sworn affidavits from a bank officer that such notices have been mailed and sworn affidavits from the publisher on each insertion of the advertisement that such publication has been made.

On the completion of these proceedings and the forwarding of such affidavits to the Commissioner of Banks, State banking institutions can and are invited to hear these young people from the Farm Schoolholders by July 1st, 1935.

When announcement was made Friday afternoon that the Lindsay Bill would become a law, Mr. Hood, the Commissioner of Banks, immediately organized the State into twenty temporary districts, and planned to send twenty men from his staff into the field immediately to explain the measure and aid and assist the State banks in taking advantage of its provisions. His forces worked far into the night Friday, March 15, preparing forms, affidavits, advertisements, etc., and beginning with Monday of last week each and every Bank and each and every branch bank will be visited by these representatives. It is Mr. Hood's earnest desire that every North Carolina banking institution be listed on July 1st, 1935, free from double liability, on their stock issue. We must re-establish a market for bank stock.

The Lindsay Bill provides that banks previously organized or relieved through the provisions of the Aycock Bill, an enactment of the 1933 Legislature, can take advantage of the same methods of procedure outlined above, and have released to them the North Carolina or United States bonds pledged in connection with that act, and at the same time obtain relief for their stockholders from all double liability.