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LYMAN DAM GOES OUT UNDER HIGH WATER STRAIN

Eight Lives Lost, Three Bodies Still Missing
Other Dams and Bridges Swept Away
Property Loss Is Enormous.

The Lyman reservoir dam, located 12 miles above St. Johns on the Little Colorado, broke Tuesday night just before midnight, letting loose an immense volume of water which swept everything before it for several miles down the river. The break started at the bottom of the dam in the old channel of the river. In a trice water was rushing through a hole two hundred feet wide in the center of the great structure. There was no thought or intimation that such a calamity impended. The water was rapidly creeping up to the spillway and was expected to overflow that night. In the afternoon L. S. Meade of Los Angeles, a government inspector of irrigation projects, A. M. Patten of Denver, a member of the Lyman Irrigation company, and several local members of the company inspected the dam and failed to detect any flaw. Mr. Patten and Gordon Parks stayed there for the night, in fact someone had been staying on guard constantly of late. The break came so quickly that even they narrowly escaped with their lives. Because of a defect in the telephone line, St. Johns people had no warning and the water was upon them before they knew it. Mr. Patten was finally able to get Springerville on the wire and from Springerville warning was sent out to points below. The homes of about 300 people of St. Johns, largely Spanish-American people, were quickly inundated and many escaped in their night clothing by wading out. Many adobe houses with their contents were swept away, leaving the occupants without even their clothing.

At El Tule, a small settlement close under the dam, eight persons were drowned, being unable to escape from the adobe house they occupied. The dead are the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Palmer—Gerald, Ross and Louise; Mrs. Jose Saavedra Jr. and her infant child; Mrs.

Violet Ray, her son Dewey, aged 17, and her daughter Hazel, aged 9 years. Mrs. Ray and children came here a week or so ago with a party of home-seekers from Montezuma, Colo. The men of the party had accepted work at the dam temporarily and all were living there. A family by name of Lyons occupied the same house with the Rays and the Palmers, but they all managed to escape. Mrs. Ray and her son had reached a place of safety, but went back for her daughter Hazel and the Palmer children, when the flood overwhelmed them. Mrs. Ray rescued two of her children who are left as orphans. They are Ethel, aged seven, and Lillie, aged four. Late tonight (Thursday) the bodies of five of those drowned have been recovered, those yet missing being the baby of Mrs. Saavedra, the little Palmer girl and the little Ray girl. Practically all the male population of St. Johns will turn out in the morning and continue the search until these bodies are recovered.

Below St. Johns the water began to spread and some livestock was drowned. The dam at the Meadows and the Uall dam were forced out by the flood, also the steel bridge beyond Hunt and numerous other smaller dams and bridges.

The Lyman dam was the joint property of the people of St. Johns and a party of Denver capitalists, headed by John F. Church as president. The direct property loss in Apache county will approximate \$200,000, while there is a property investment of half a million dollars that will be made worthless unless the dam is rebuilt. The destroyed dam was an earth and rock structure and contained no concrete. A new one will undoubtedly be built and it is certain that concrete will be used in its construction. There will be no more experiments. St. Johns lost another smaller dam on May 2, 1905, but at that time there was

less property loss and no loss of life.

Being deprived of the water this season will work no great hardship. The ground is thoroughly soaked and it will be easy to run a ditch from the river above the reservoir site, which will furnish ample water to carry through the crops this season.

Boys' and Girls' Club.

L. S. Parke, state club organizer of the University of Arizona, addressed a crowd at the academy Sunday night, after returning from Springerville and Eagar where he held meetings of a similar character. He gave information as to the organization of boys' and girls' clubs and the manner of conducting them. Judge Geo. H. Crosby was chosen to go ahead with the work at this place. It was suggested that a canning and chicken club would be appropriate for the girls and a corn and pig club for the boys. Anyone between the ages of 10 and 19 years can become a member.

As we go to press, it is learned that the flood has reached Holbrook. It has carried out all the dams and bridges along the way, including the big bridge leading into Holbrook, but there is not enough water left to do any great damage in the town. The greatest loss of livestock seems to have been in the vicinity of the Udall reservoir, according to report.

Chas. Wright and wife are rejoicing over the arrival of their first born, a daughter, Wednesday night.

Chas. Forrest, the stone, brick and cement artist, this week put in a foundation for the heavy machinery in the Jen-Dike cream factory.

Stansell Greer, the sheepman, informs us that wild animals are increasing rapidly and are doing great damage among sheep and calves. He is of the opinion that unless the stockmen organize and take some action to kill off the bobcats and coyotes, they will increase and become a perfect terror in this section. Mr. Greer also informed us that the impression that sheep are in good condition is erroneous. His sheep suffered greatly during the cold, wet weather of February and March and many died. The same is true of all sheep in this section. They are very poor, notwithstanding the fact that grass is so large and plentiful.

M. J. Brennan, of Springerville, returned Monday from a business trip to Phoenix.

It is a rather significant fact that all the recent elections in the larger cities have gone republican by about two to one.

Wm. Waite and family have moved back to St. Johns from Ramah, N. M., and will make their permanent home here.

Jack Lowe and J. J. Shields, the insurance men of the California State Life, returned Tuesday from Springerville and went on to Holbrook the next day.

The April number of the Sunset magazine contains a very good photo engraving of Apache County's state representative, Mrs. Rachael Berry.

Frank Allen, a first class shoe cobbler, has located in the building formerly occupied by Sam Wright and family. Mr. Allen is a good workman and is here to stay.

Judge Reamer Ling expects to leave next week for his old home in Knoxville, Tenn., for a visit of a few weeks. He goes at this time in order to be present at the bi-centennial meeting of the alumni of the state university, from which he graduated in 1889.

A report reached us Wednesday that Henry Butler's oldest son had been found dead at Eagar. Particulars are meagre, but it is understood he was out helping to clean a ditch. Not returning with the other men, a search was made and he was found lying dead beside the ditch.

Mrs. Merenciana Berala waived trial in the Superior court, and Judge Crosby fined her \$90.00 and gave her a sentence of six months imprisonment, but the sentence and fine were suspended. The case was taken up from the justice court, where she was found guilty of living in co-habitation with Rafael Candelaria.

The boastful Third Years, in a debate at the academy Monday, were ignominiously defeated by the unsophisticated Second Years. The question was, "Resolved. That foreign immigration to the United States should be further restricted by the imposition of an educational test." The affirmative side was taken by Albert Brown and Hugh Richey of the Second Year class, and the negative side by Joseph S. Jarvis and Miss Josephine Wiltbank of the Third Year class.