

TROUBLING TIMES

15



TROUBLING TIMES
BINDER contains:

FLOODS

BLIZZARDS

FIRES

that have affected
Paradise Falls

WIND STORMS

AN EXCITING FIND !!

- A PHOTO SHOWING THE BLACKSMITH SHOP THAT BURNED DOWN IN 1926!

In 1926 the surveyors were living and had their supplies in the former blacksmith shop that may have served the residents of Paradise Valley. In mid-July that shop burned to the ground destroying everything including the surveyor's Civil Engineering Masters Degree Thesis.

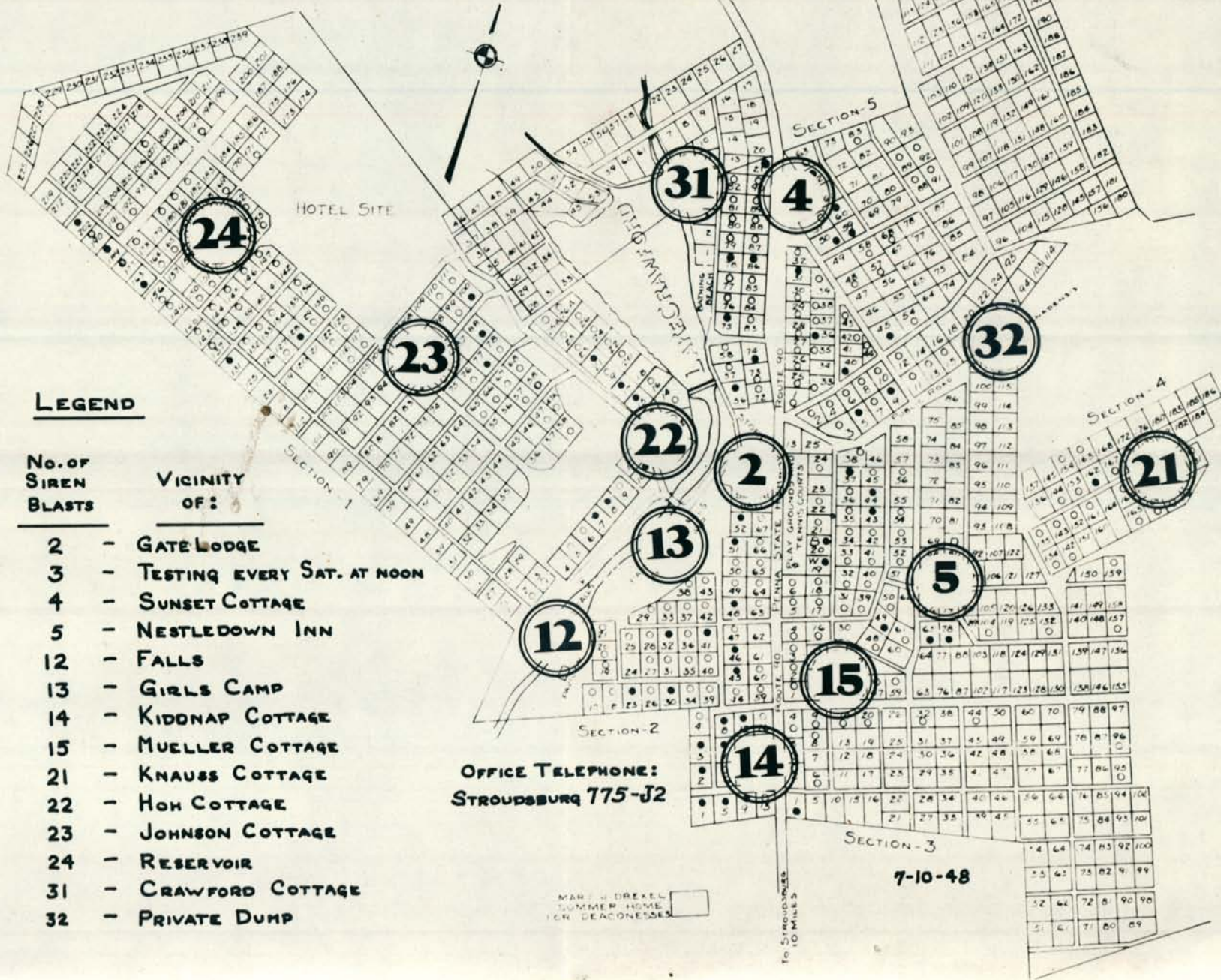
In 1926, the Hays family was living and conducting Paradise Falls business in the pictured farmhouse (that a few years previous had housed up to 15 members of the Harvey Dietrick family).

Notice: Shop is perpendicular to present garage
The Tea Room addition is not there!

Get copy from Gate Lodge section

PLAN OF THE PARADISE FALLS FIRE STATIONS

1948



LEGEND

No. OF SIREN BLASTS	VICINITY OF:
2	- GATE LODGE
3	- TESTING EVERY SAT. AT NOON
4	- SUNSET COTTAGE
5	- NESTLEDOWN INN
12	- FALLS
13	- GIRLS CAMP
14	- KIDDNAP COTTAGE
15	- MUELLER COTTAGE
21	- KNAUSS COTTAGE
22	- HOH COTTAGE
23	- JOHNSON COTTAGE
24	- RESERVOIR
31	- CRAWFORD COTTAGE
32	- PRIVATE DUMP

OFFICE TELEPHONE:
STROUDSBURG 775-J2

MARK J. BREKEL
SUMMER HOME
FOR DEACONESSES

7-10-48

Fire Alarm Numbers And Locations

2	Gatelodge & Social Hall	15	Muellers Cottage
3	Testing	21	Knaus Cottage
4	Sunset Cottage	22	Hoh Cottage
5	Nestledown	23	Johnson Cottage
12	Falls	24	Reservoir
13	Girls Camp	31	Crawford Cottage
14	Kiddnap Cottage	32	Public Dump

Fire Alarm Numbers & Locations

2 Gate Lodge & Social Hall

3 Testing

4 Sunset Cottage (#91 Olson Sr.)

5 Nestledown

12 Falls

13 Girls Camp ()

14 Kiddnap Cottage (#50 J. Bond)

15 Mueller Cottage (#63 Hoyt)

21 Knous Cottage

22 Hoh Cottage (#1 McGuire)

23 Johnson Cottage (#5 Richards)

24 Reservoir

31 Crawford Cottage

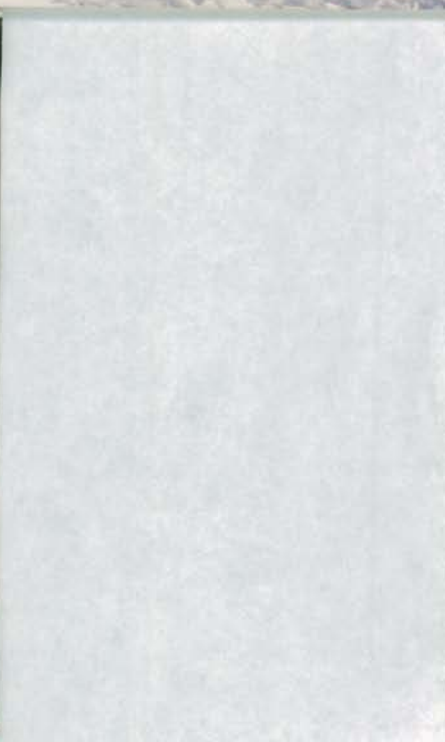
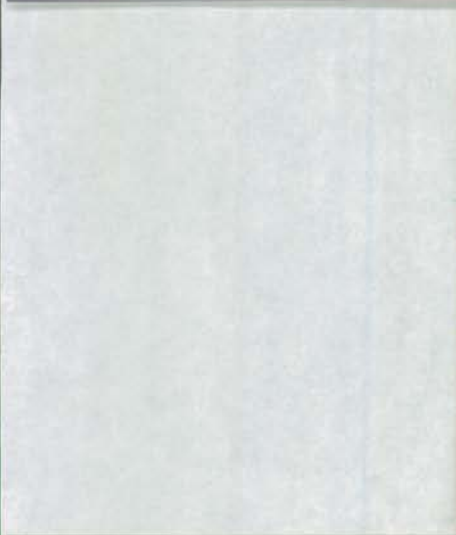
32 Public Dump

3. Each cottage must be provided with the following fire prevention equipment:
 - a. Hose connection outside, at least 15 feet from cottage.
 - b. Some type of Underwriters approved extinguisher inside the cottage.
4. Do not permit smoking in bed in your cottage.
5. Do not allow trash to accumulate. Regular collections are provided for its removal.
6. Remember, every fire is your fire. Be prepared to prevent loss of life and property.
7. All use of water by cottages during a fire is forbidden except at the fire.
8. In case of fire notify the office and the proper alarm will be given.
9. The siren will blow three blasts each Saturday at noon to test its working condition.

A TREE-HUNG BUCKET TO "DOUSE" FALLS CAMPFIRES



We have yet to learn if more than one of these might have been placed all around our property as part of our antiquated fire fighting system before being incorporated into the county 911 program.









It had been a rainy summer, but then the heavens opened!

We kids knew things were bad when our favorite MASQUERADE was cancelled

!!!

!BOO HOO!

SAD TIMES DURING & AFTER FLOOD

Monday August 15 continued:
8:30p.m. My Best Pictures. Color slides which cottagers, guests, & F. Fors have taken of their trips and experiences around America and the world. Slides by Dr. Vohringer, Dr. Eisenberg, Rev. Ammon, Rickey Acker, Mr. Teter, Rev. Bauers

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8:30p.m. Annual Masquerade. Let's all get in costume this year! A prize to you if you do! The themes for costumes are "comic characters" and "TV personalities". This should be the best masquerade ever. Following the masquerade there will be square dancing!



Hurricane Diane struck overnight Thursday into Friday August 18, 19.

We woke to wreckage everywhere

People couldn't get off Summit Hill let alone to Henryville or Stroudsburg

SEASON
CLOSED

FEAR OF
TYPHOID FEVER!

ROADS, BRIDGES
CLOSED

COTTAGERS
VOLUNTEERED
TO RUN AM
+ PM ACTIVITIES

#9 Paradise Falls Lutheran Association 20 August -26 August '55

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

FLOOD DAMAGE NOTES

Unparalleled flood waters have caused widespread damage to the Poconos & to Paradise Falls.

The following information is provided by the officers of the association, as of Friday evening.

As soon as the emergency guests are cared for the season will close!! The store and Gift Shop will remain open for the time being.

Parents are asked to keep all sightseeing children away from the water. Several P.F. children almost drowned Friday!!

One way remains to get out of Paradise Falls. Go to Mt. Pocono, cross Route 611, take road to Route 940 and cross the Railroad track. Take first left road (sign indicating Long Pond). Continue to route 115, turn left & you are headed toward Easton!

Road is open to Mt. Pocono & Route 611 to Scranton. Emergency driving is permitted on the above highway.

Information about bus service will be announced in the dining room as soon as it is available. At such time P.F. will provide transportation for all needing same to the nearest bus stop.

Meals are being served at 10:30a.m. & 4:30p.m. at Gate Lodge. Nominal charge is made.

Parents with small babies who need sterilized bottles or water may secure same at the dining room. Milk needed for small babies may be had at the same place.

Monday at 9:00a.m. we will begin the salvage job of the flood. All male cottagers & all friends of the association who can give time should report for work. Please bring hammers, wrecking bars, shovels, picks, dynamite, saws, axes, etc. Wear old clothes which may get dirty!! Meet at Gate Lodge.

SOCIAL DIRECTOR
SENT HOME

NO SWIMMING
ALLOWED

ABLE-BODIED
COTTAGERS
ASKED TO
JOIN WORK
+ CLEAN-UP
DETAILS



GIRLS' CAMP

Weatherman Misses Call For Poconos

By Leonard Randolph

MONROE COUNTY'S greatest tragedy came on the heels of a day of optimism.

The news was good. Hurricane Diane, the newscasts said, had swerved out to sea, sparing the Eastern Seaboard the terror and tension of anticipated high winds.

The weather forecast for Aug. 18, released by the regional office of the U. S. Weather Bureau through Philadelphia, predicted: "Rain, rather windy this morning, changing to showers . . ."

It was the understatement of the century.

Within 24 hours nearly 11 inches of rain poured down on the mountain regions of Monroe County. In these mountains lie the sources of streams and creeks which flow through the lower areas of the county.

Drenched only a week before by the water-logged fringes of Hurricane Connie, Monroe County soil had had no time to dry. When the cloudburst came, it turned small streams into roaring rivers.

After the Desert: Flood

It had been a hot, arid summer. Truck gardens in the county had shrivelled for lack of moisture. Crops were close to failing. Everywhere, in August, the talk had been of rain.

Along country roads, the clouds of dust rose like spectres of famine where cars passed by. There was, nearly always, the harsh edge of heat on humid brows. Well drillers were doing a rush business. They were digging deep for new supplies of water.

On Friday, Aug. 12 the water began to come. In the technical, often incongruous, terminology of the Weather Bureau, the first rains were dubbed a part of Hurricane Connie. During the three-day period in which Connie moved across Pennsylvania, the hurricane dumped a total of 9.41 inches of rain in the upper regions of Monroe County—at the head of the streams.

Overnight—on Saturday, Aug. 13—the creeks rose. Some residents, who lived along the banks of streams, watched the waters rise with a beginning fear in their minds. The streams almost—but never completely—went over their banks.

After the Warning: Disaster

The warning—looked at in retrospect—was there. Heavy rains had pushed many Monroe County streams to their limits. The earth—parched and flaked by months of unabated sun—was soaked to its saturation point.

When the streams went down, the next day, the worry went with the water. Connie's rainfall had been a record for a three-day period. No one believed that another storm could come right away. Certainly not a storm with more rain than Connie.

That was on Tuesday, Aug. 16. Two days later another hurricane wrote a dramatic footnote to the blessing of rain that had come with Connie.

It was a hard, piercing rain. Hurricane Diane brought no wind to speak of to this area. One of the day's headlines read: "Diane Wearing Herself Out As She Blows Northwest; Only Minor Damage Caused."

Less than 24 hours later, "worn-out" Diane killed 67 persons in Monroe County, flooded hundreds of homes and took a toll in property damages running into the millions.

After the Reports: Disbelief

The first realization that streams were flooding came early enough. Phone calls from Tannersville reported flooding in that area and above, in Tobyhanna.

At first the reports were met by a stunned disbelief. Slowly the reality spread downward through the county. But nothing could move faster than the water itself.

In Canadensis, Civil Defense workers were on the job in a matter of minutes after the flood warning was issued. Firemen from Barrett Township turned out in full groups.

But the worst impact of the flood was to be borne by the region incorporating Stroudsburg, East Stroudsburg and Analomink. Here, where the waters of the Brodheads were visible from highways and railroad cars in times of purely scenic beauty, the stream spread out like a mammoth river.

It took with it the earth, the rocks, man-made buildings—and human life. Its path of destruction swept down from Canadensis through Stites Bridge, through Henryville and Analomink, through ill-starred Camp Davis and the Stroudsburgs.

It ripped huge slabs of concrete from narrow Route 90; tore great stretches of the Creek Road (Route 280) from the roadbed, washed them downstream.

After the Storm: Silence

It stopped raining, in the lower county areas. But the damage had been done. All creeks—Pocono, Pensyl, McMichaels, Tobyhanna—were filled or overflowing.

Communications between Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg were cut off by destruction of the interborough bridge with its precious telephone and utility cables attached to it.

The rest was silence for hours on end. Some residents, already asleep when the flood hit the boroughs, woke long enough to wonder fretfully who was making all the noise. From a distance, the workers evacuating men and women from flooded homes sounded like campers on a midnight hike. An occasional shout could be heard—but the water was invisible from the higher regions of the two towns.

Before midnight the waters had reached Fifth St. in Stroudsburg from the Brodheads and Ninth St. from Pocono Creek. Four blocks of Main St. were isolated and dry. They were lined with hundreds of parked tractor-trailers and cars.

A dramatic rescue squad story was being unfolded at the same time near Stokes Mill and Pinebrook camps below Analomink. Rescue teams—made up entirely of volunteers—brought stranded persons from the flood-torn region near Analomink, running along Route 90.

After Shock: Calmness

By morning, the first feeling of shock had been replaced by a calm determination. What work there was to be done had to be done.

The men and women of Monroe County set out to do it.

They needed more help. And it came. Some—from the Army—came rapidly. A helicopter airlift had worked hours to remove stranded passengers from a flood-bound train at Cresco. Now the helicopters began carrying food.

The first factual assessments of damage began to come in. Factories, homes, highways—all had been torn by the flood.

An official measurement showed that the Brodheads had reached 33 feet—far above its old record high. The course of the flood had radically changed the face of Monroe County's map. New stream beds had been created. Old ones were gutted and filled with rock. Down hills and mountains, water had swept dirt in huge paths to make a possible beginning for newer streams.

Mud and silt, rock and debris had piled downward on the water's crest to lodge against buildings and create new mountains. All of it had to be moved.

After the Setback: Recovery

The backbreaking job of reconstruction began. State officials flew over the area. The Corps of Engineers moved in.

Slowly official sources began to strike down the violent state of rumors which had flooded the county as the waters went down.

A metropolitan newspaper screamed "typhoid" in Stroudsburg. It was false. The biggest rumor of them all was "A dam broke." There was no truth in that.

What caused the flood? The answer—and the only one made after careful study—was a simple one: There had been too much rain, too suddenly.

The talk centered more and more on some kind of flood control. There was no doubt it was needed. And officials said there was only one way to get it—go after it.

The only trouble was, they said, that people "forget too easily."

Today, the rehabilitation of Monroe County as a living eco-

nomie community is well underway. Comfort is just around the corner.

But the raw, imperfect pattern of flood demolition still winds through the foothills below the mountains. It has changed only a little along the Brodheads and it will stay that way, as a silent, white-rock reminder for those who need or want to see.

1. The renter Bonnet family at the Schuler cottage was evacuated for their safety.
2. Work parties and dump trucks worked for days to build up the road to the car bridge.
3. The upper bridge was lost. One abutment was gone, a Girls Camp bunk was trapped. Another bunk is in 2015 woods below.
4. Lake's long dock decking was destroyed. A WW II rescue craft (a kid favorite) was saved.
5. It was a decade later when PF partially recovered financially.
6. We were grateful our dam held or the devastation would have been greater.
7. Kids helped save fish trapped in pools created in Girls Camp field.
8. Girls Camp Cabins
 - One lost downstream
 - One was overturned
 - One survived and was used later as a motel unit



Offering.

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10:00a.m. Junior Life Saving.
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6:30p.m. Volleyball Game- 12 year olds and up. Near tennis court.
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Friday August 19- 9:30 to 11:00a.m. Tennis Instructions.
 10:00a.m. Junior Life Saving.
 11:00a.m. Swimming Instructions.
 2:00p.m. Auto Trip. 50¢ per person.
 6:00p.m. Covered Dish Supper at Social Hall. Sponsored by and for the benefit of the Ladies' Auxiliary. Meat and beverages will be provided. Each family should bring their dishes, a card table, and a "covered dish". Offering will be received for meat and beverages.
 7:30p.m. Shuffleboard Tournament for young people and adults.
 8:00p.m. Falls Campfire Party. Everyone is invited to an evening of songs, games, quizzes and refreshments. 15¢ per person, including doggies and beverage.

COMING EVENTS

Sunday August 21-Guest Preacher. Rev. Thomas Lott. Pasotr, trinity Lutheran Church, Runnemedo, N.J.
 Tuesday August 23-Christmas in August Party.
 Thursday August 25- Paradise Falls Circus. A lot of fun and amazement for everyone..
 Tuesday August 30- P.F.G. Show. Put on by the "Paradise Falls Gang" you won't want to miss it.

X X X X X X X X X

P.F.G. Formed A new organization for "the kids" at P.F. was formed this week. It is known as P.F.G and stands for "Paradise Falls Gang". Their sponsor is Chuck Metzger, popular life guard. Officers elected are: President- Freda Ammon; Vice-president- Dave Titus; Secretary-Treasurer- Jim Davis.

NOTICES

The Water Olympics which were to be held Wed. have been postponed to Saturday August 13. Come & see the activities including swimming races, diving, canoe swamping, tug-o-war, and beach-water contests.

G.E. Electric Proctor Anyone interested in purchasing a new electric roaster please contact the office or Pastor Hays.

Dining Room Excellent & modestly priced meals are earning a reputation for our cook, waitresses, kitchen boys, hostess and others connected with the "eating" department. If you wish Sunday Dinner please make advance reservations. Sunday dinner for cottagers is at 2:00p.m.

The Men's Fashion show participants are asked to come to Social Hall at 2 o'clock Sat. for a "run-thru" & rehearsal.

A word of caution to persons driving on the grounds. Please Drive Slowly, as there are many children in our P.F. "Family". Especially on the road past the beach!

Gift Shop "Less Work for Mother". Have you seen our fine plastron table covers? The finest and most useful tablecloths. For picnic and home use. Just wipe off after using, no laundry problems. They have an outing flannel back, no cracking when folded, or sticking to your arms like plastic does. They appear like linen cloths.

They come in most attractive colors and will serve you for years with proper care. Comes in sizes 54X54 cost \$2.98. Sizes 54 by 72 cost \$3.98. There are also longer lengths for picnic tables. Make your choice now while there is still a selection.

With cooler days it is pleasanter to shop. Come in, browse in our shop and select gifts for birthdays, Christmas etc. There is still a nice selection of Christmas cards, have you made your choice?

Your patronage is appreciated and bring your guests and friends to our shop. Thank You. Ladies Auxiliary. STORE In not too many weeks we will all be packing and homeward bound for another winter. Let's all help to clear the shelves in our store, especially of items which will not hold over. Your business is gain for all of us!

#8

THE SPRAY

1955. "Diane" struck Thursday
Aug. 18, 1955

Paradise Falls Lutheran Association 13 August - 19 August '55

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday August 13- 10:00a.m. Jr. Life Saving
11:00a.m. Swimming Instructions
3:00p.m. Water Olympics
6:30p.m. Softball game on the diamond across from Social Hall. Umpire will be Morontz.
8:30p.m. Men's Fashion Show and Beauty Contest. Promises to be a hilarious, stunning, and terrific show! Bring your flask cameras loaded with color film! Latest in ladies' fashions modeled by the glamorous men of P.F. Leading designers from Europe and the Orient will vie with their latest designs. Photographers from LIFE, THYME, SEVENTEEN AND ONE HALF, GLAMOUR and other fashion magazines will be present. Miss Paradise Falls will be crowned. Join the fun as 20 daring men parade and exude beauty!!!

Sunday August 14- 9:30a.m. Sunday School- Children to 7 years of age (1st grade) in the Rec Hall. All others including adults in the Social Hall. Rev. Robert Bauers will discuss and illustrate his inner mission work.

10:45a.m. The Service in Social Hall. Dr. Herman Gilbert, Secretary for Africa of the Board of Foreign Missions of the ULCA will preach. Miss Virginia Arnon, accompanist.

8:00p.m. Special Visual Vespers in Social Hall. Dr. Gilbert will present the new church sponsored color film "In Face of Jeopardy".

Monday August 15- 9:30a.m. Tennis Instructions.
10:00a.m. Junior Life Saving.
11:00a.m. Swimming Instructions.
7:00p.m. Treasure hunt for the kids and teeners.

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ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

FLOOD DAMAGE NOTES

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NOTES

The second balsa raft has not been placed on the lake due to transportation problems. If we can clear these, we ought to see the new raft soon.

A couple on the grounds at Paradise Falls is looking for a companion to live with them and do light housekeeping. A permanent position in Philadelphia, summers at P.F. If you know of someone qualified & who might be interested please contact the office.

Lost A pair of earrings. If found contact Miss Jarocka in Gate Lodge. Liberal Reward!!!

Pictures (8"x10") of the Men's Fashion Show are available for 50¢ each. See Pastor Ammon.

Store Every day Mrs. Jacobs will offer a "special". Watch for them. The last week will be discount week at the P.F. Store!

Gift Shop P.F.G. Note! Did you take advantage of our T shirt specials to your group for 25¢? Here is your opportunity to display your loyalty to your gang at little expense. Buy yours while the supply lasts.

As the season rolls toward Labor Day, we will be having specials in our gift shop each week. There will be a reduction on some jewelry, paper goods, Davey Crockett articles etc. Come in and browse and take advantage of our lower priced articles as long as the supply lasts. Watch for our Specials! 25% reduction on some items.

Have you remembered to select your Christmas and greeting cards? Many inexpensive items will serve as lovely Christmas gifts, birthday etc. Shop in our gift shop, save expense and energy while at your leisure.

We always appreciate your patronage. Thank You.

Ladies' Auxiliary.

Saturday August 20- 6:30 p.m. Softball game on diamond across from Social Hall. Ernie Schmidt & Mr. Creston are captains. Herb Gibney, umpire.

8:30 p.m. Movie in Social Hall. "Shine On Harvest Moon", with Ann Sheridan, Jack Carson, and Dennis Morgan. Musical Comedy in early 1900 settings.

Sunday August 21- 9:30 Sunday School. All meet in Social Hall.
10:45 a.m. The Service. Rev. Thomas Lott, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Runnemede, N.J. guest preacher.

7:30 p.m. Vespers on the Crawford lawn at the head of the lake. In case of inclement weather at Social Hall.

Monday August 22 9:30 a.m. Tennis Instructions.
10:00 a.m. Junior Life Saving
7:00 p.m. Scavenger Hunt for kids.
8:30 p.m. "I've got a Secret" Program in Social Hall. Panel Show with lots of fun for everyone. Take-off on the popular TV Show.

Tuesday August 23 9:30 a.m. Crafts for small fry (5-7) Morantz & Bauers in charge. 10¢ per person. Porch of Social Hall.

10:00 a.m. Junior Life Saving
8:00 p.m. Christmas in August Party. Social Hall. Christmas Tree, Santa Claus, Christmas Songs and Carols, and gifts. Everyone should bring a wrapped gift, value not to exceed 25¢ & suitable for man or woman, boy or girl. Also, cottagers bring any used clothing you may want to contribute to Lutheran World Action. Any kind of clothing including shoes. Everyone will take a gift and a favor home!

Wednesday August 24 9:30 a.m. Crafts for kids 8-10. 10¢ each session. Bonnet & Gibney in charge. Porch of Social Hall.

10:00 a.m. Junior Life Saving.

6:30 p.m. Softball Game.

8:30 p.m. Movie in Social Hall. "City Beneath the Sea" with Robert Ryan, Mala Powers, Anthony Quinn. Technicolor. Search for a million dollar treasure in a mysterious sunken city. 25¢ for children, 50¢ for adults.

Thursday August 25 9:30 a.m. Crafts for kids 11-14. 10¢ each session. Klauswitz & Mann in Charge.

6:00 p.m. Family Barbecue on the beach, followed by a hayride for all ages. \$1.00 for kids under twelve; \$1.50 for all over twelve--- includes the evening barbecue, with corn on the cob, potato chips, & fruit juice!! Make this a family affair, with grub on the beach and fun on the hayride!!

Friday August 26 9:30 a.m. Tennis Instructions.
10:00 a.m. Junior Life Saving.
2:00 p.m. Trip to Pocono Crest (Formerly Lutherland) 50¢

7:30 p.m. Shuffleboard Tournament
8:30 p.m. Movie in Social Hall. "The Hollywood Story" with Julie Adams & Richard Conte. A young producer gets involved in a mystery.
THE MASQUERADE WILL BE HELD SOMETIME THIS WEEK. WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENT ON STORE BLACKBOARD!

COMING EVENTS

Saturday August 27 8:30p.m. Special Square Dance with caller Mr. Hovey from Merchantville, N.J. will call some old & new square dances.

Tuesday August 30 8:30 p.m. "Sats of Tomorrow" the Big FFC show. The youngsters comprising "The Gang" will present a magician, vocal, and instrumental numbers, a skit, and "This Is Your Life".

ALL ACTIVITIES DEPEND ON CONDITIONS, FLOOD REPAIR PRIORITIES ETC.

① Hurricane

1955 - Dime mined in Mt. Pocono for 24 hrs.

12", ground already saturated by Cobble 7'-10".

Rev. Percy Davis' flock (in retirement) negotiated
there. In land he bought near Percy Crawford's
on the Brookhead.

Davis formed a "liquid bulldozer".

See water line on blog across from Mc D's.
Part of covered bridge at Portland is now small
Hotel (NY?)

Bridge in Megolville was built by
Rocking - also Raven Rock & Brooklyn Dr.

Easton
↑

② Ft. American Grill was almost under water
Rt 611 & 32

Living with the river vs. living on
the river.

4 died in E'lung Buttonwood
neighborhood.

"Devastation on the Delaware"







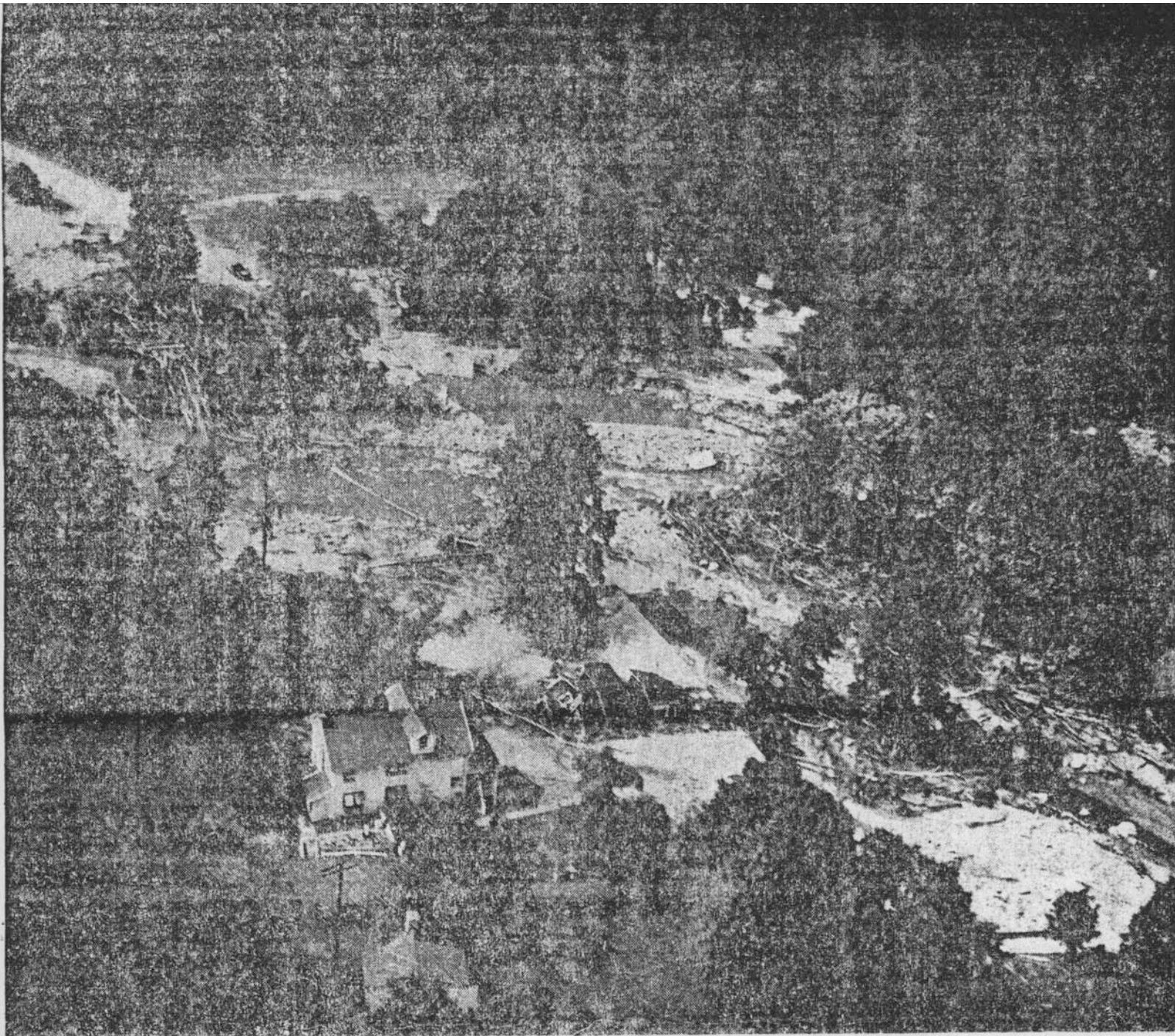








Please see loose 1955 newspapers
and the 2005 50th Anniversary
Commemorative Edition of the Pocono
Record for lots more Flood information



HENRYVILLE: ON RIVER ROUTE 90 — Flood waters tore through Henryville, following along Route 90, the highway through the village, tearing down homes, a restaurant and service station and washing away parts of a resort there. Aerial

photograph shows tremendous pile of debris, upper left, dumped on highway. Picture was taken looking northwest.

(U. S. Army Photo by James Poole)

By **DAVID PIERCE**
Pocono Record Writer

The flood of 1955 visited such death and destruction upon the Delaware River valley that it may well be the greatest natural disaster the Poconos has ever known.

Less understood is the role the flood played in a social and political upheaval over the next two decades that uprooted families from homes that had been theirs for generations, enticed scores of "squatters" to homestead the river valley in defiance of federal and local authorities, and resulted in formation of a national recreation area visited each year by five million people.

Players in that post-flood drama have since settled into quieter, free-flowing lives. Yet the memories are vivid and sometimes painful. Like the river itself, emotions run deep, often lurking just beneath the surface.

TWO HURRICANES — Connie, then Diane — delivered a wicked one-two punch during August 1955. Connie deposited 10 inches of rain in two days, putting the Delaware and its tributaries at flood stage. Less than a week later Diane brought another 10 inches, with disastrous results.

A 30-foot-high flood wave on Brodhead Creek disintegrated the main building of a religious camp south of Analomink, sweeping away all 46 campers, most of them children. Eight were rescued, but 38 others perished; two of



the bodies were never recovered.

Several other Pocono camps also were destroyed. Another 32 people died in East Stroudsburg as flood waters ripped homes off foundations in Maplehurst flats behind the high school, the Day Street flats and the Lincoln Avenue flats.

The main Stroudsburg-East Stroudsburg interborough bridge was swept downstream. Several residents in East Stroudsburg's "Silk Mill Flats" area were carried away with their homes and drowned. Six people were killed when the wave hit the Day Street fire hall, where a bingo game was in progress.

Though the death toll wasn't nearly so high on the New Jersey side of the river, many homes, businesses and bridges were swept away there as well.

Of the more than 200 people who died as a result of the twin hurricanes, 78 were killed in Monroe County. In the flood's aftermath, support grew for building a dam to prevent a recurrence.

The Weather
 Cloudy and warm. Scattered showers by evening. Tuesday, fair and cooler.

THE MORNING CALL

Balancing the Budget
 Read why, for the first time in years, it's very possible the federal budget may be balanced by next July 1. See Allen column on editorial page.

VOL. 131, NO. 44 ★ ★ ★ Telephone HE 3-4241 ALLENTOWN, PA., MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 1955 Entered 2nd Class Matter Post Office, Allentown, Pa. 5c a Copy 30c Weekly

Monroe Flood Toll: 55 Dead, 8 Missing

Flood-Stricken Area Digs Out Watch Kept for Typhoid; Stroudsburgs Knee-Deep In Mud, 2,500 Homeless

Too Early To Figure Total Loss

Governor Again Inspects Damage; 93 Dead in State

Eastern Pennsylvania, particularly the Monroe County resort area, spent the weekend starting the long, hard job of rehabilitating communities stricken by the worst floods in the region's history.

It was impossible last night to learn with any degree of accuracy just how much devastation was wrought by the floods. They were brought about by storms of last Thursday which dumped from 3 1/2 to 7 inches of rainfall, making raging torrents of the tiniest mountain streams, and a 42-foot high wall of crushing power out of the normally docile Delaware River.

'Too Immense'
 Gov. George M. Leader, who yesterday made his second tour of the stricken eastern counties since Friday, said last night, "It (the destruction) is too immense to be specific about any figures."

"It is impossible at this early date to be specific about the number of deaths or extent of property damage inflicted by this flood," the governor said. He added that his trip yesterday was to be certain that forces coping with the disaster were doing all they could to relieve the flood victims.

Death Toll Mounts
 Unofficially, persons directing flood relief reported that the death toll stood last night at 93, and predicted that it will mount to well over the 100-mark.

In the Stroudsburg area alone there were 55 known dead and 8 persons reported as missing.

Outside the Stroudsburg area, where the tragedy of the Davis Camp, a summer retreat from which only a handful survived, deaths were caused by traffic accidents, electrocutions, falls, and heart attacks, all attributed to the floods.



THE LIVING AND THE DEAD. The bodies of the dead are being removed from the

By CHARLEY ZAIMES
 Of The Morning Call Staff

Monroe County's Death toll is still rising. And the people of the Stroudsburgs are still knee-deep in muck as they struggle up the long, hard road toward normalcy.

The latest official count is 55 dead, 8 missing—and everyone agrees that the number of persons unaccounted for is a very conservative estimate. More than 2,500 are homeless in the twin boroughs.

Gov. George M. Leader visited the stricken communities by helicopter yesterday afternoon at the height of a drenching downpour that raised some fear of more floods. However, the showers stopped about 20 minutes after the chief executive arrived.

After a conference with disaster relief agency officials, including state police, civil defense, Red Cross and municipal representatives, Leader said he was convinced "the local people are doing a wonderful job. Everything is going very well. All the agencies are cooperating and I am convinced that all the forces in the field are able to cope with this problem."

Mother's Only Hope: 2 Missing Children's Bodies Will Be Found

By DICK COWEN
 Of The Morning Call Staff

"I can't find my own children. I know they're dead."

"The only thing I can hope for is that their bodies will be found."

A young mother, pale and too weary to cry anymore, huddled under the trailer of a refrigerator truck on the Clearview School field in Stroud Township. She was surrounded by several other people, all seeking protection from a sudden afternoon thunderstorm.

She was waiting for the bodies of the unidentified dead from the worst flood in Monroe County history. Army and Navy helicopters were flying the bodies there from East Stroudsburg.

44 Dead In Monroe Identified

Fifty-five flood victims were officially listed dead last night in the Stroudsburg area, hardest hit region of the state.

The names included nine from East Stroudsburg, four from Stroudsburg and another four from rural Stroudsburg.

Grim crews worked all day yesterday locating bodies of flood victims who were washed into the swollen Brodheads and Pocono Creeks Thursday night. The dead were flown by helicopter, in most cases, to the athletic field behind the Clearview School in Stroud Township, where undertakers and civil defense officials set up an emergency morgue in the rear of a refrigerated tractor-trailer truck commandeered from the highway.

Tear-Stained Day
 Relatives and friends of the missing flocked to the school field to view the bodies in efforts to make identification. It was a tear-stained day.

Time after time the odd-looking craft with the overhead windmills settled softly to the ground and disgorged grisly cargo.

C. D. authorities said the unidentified dead would be taken to Allentown State Hospital where the bodies would be kept under refrigeration for a maximum of 30 days. During that time attempts will be made to establish identification through comparing their fingerprints with prints taken from glasses, combs, or household articles known to have been handled by the missing persons.

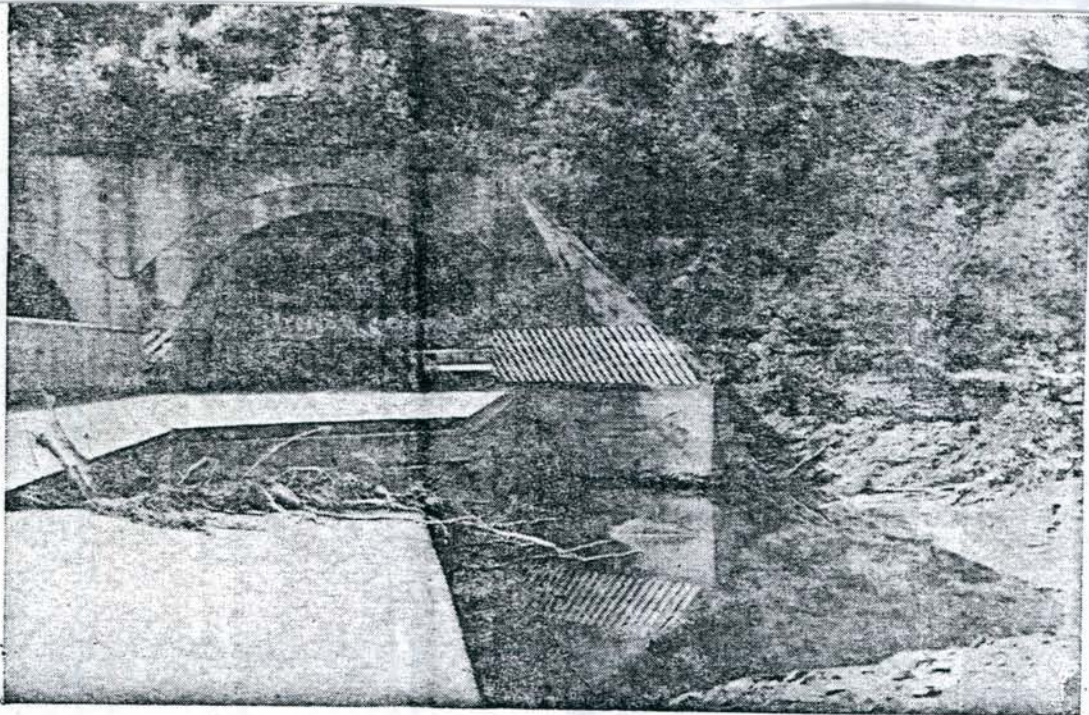
Raging Paradise Creek Seriously



TOSSED AND TWISTED, cars of guests at Penn Hills Lodge, one of the resorts along Brodheads Creek hit hard by the rampaging Brodheads Creek, were held from being moved on to

further damages by one of the buildings at the cottage-colony hotel. There were no casualties at Penn Hills, but damages ran very high. (Staff Photo by MacLeod)

Damages Henryville Section



LANDMARK — One of the most severely damaged of properties in the Henryville area was the southern approach to the railroad bridge and tunnel on Route 209. (Photo by Michael Hannon)





COUNTING THE DEAD—Harry Gramsback, a volunteer Civil Defense official, goes over bodies of persons taken to a temporary morgue in Stroudsburg yesterday after their bodies were found in section along Brodheads Creek.



FIGHT TYPHOID THREAT—Dr. Fred Munson inoculates Daniel Heck, 14 months old, as the young son of Mrs. Janet Heckman, East Stroudsburg lets out a wail. A threat of typhoid fever hovers in the flood stricken communities of Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg.



MOPPING UP—PP&L linemen face the momentous task of repairing damage to power lines in the Stroudsburg area. Dangling lines and toppled service poles confront a crew working on the outskirts of the battered community.



CAMP DAVIS VICTIMS—Volunteer workers and state police cover the bodies of victims of the flood that swept through Camp Davis, near Analomink. The bodies were found on an island about two miles below the camp on Brodheads Creek.

THE FLOOD of '55

How could this disaster happen?

Diane, Connie deliver one-two punch to Poconos

After the rain stopped, flood waters slowly revealed the damage, including 78 fatalities in the Poconos and countless homes and cars destroyed.

The irony of the devastating drenching the area received in 1955 was that the county was in the throes of one of the hottest, driest summers on record.

By **MICHAEL SADOWSKI**
Pocono Record Writer

Sometimes, the wrath of Mother Nature can't be avoided.

No matter what you do.
No matter how hard you try.
No matter how hard you pray.

When two hurricanes converge and splatter their wrath over an area within one week, bad things are bound to happen.

That was the case in August 1955, when Hurricane Diane followed Hurricane Connie on a path across eastern Pennsylvania, sending creeks and rivers over their banks and killing 78 people in Monroe County.

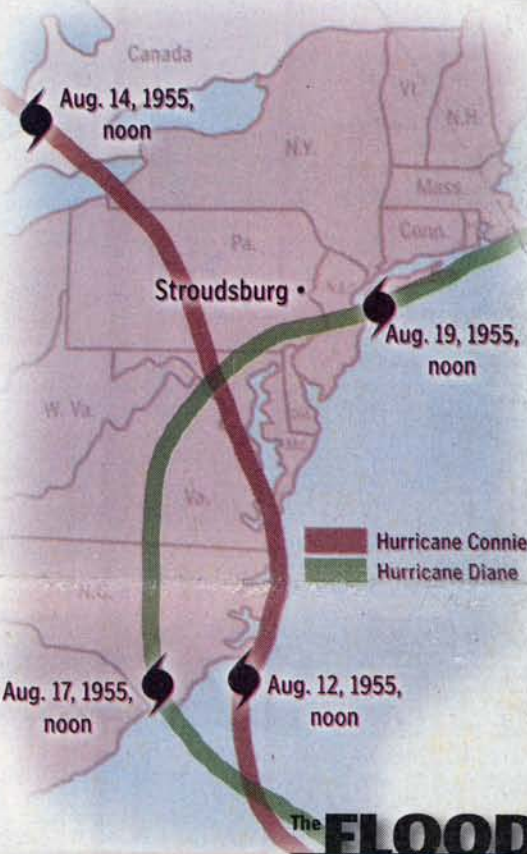
The chances of two powerful hurricanes dropping more than 20 inches of rain in one spot are astronomical.

"Maybe once every 250 years, but the destruction that happened, it's more like once every 500 years something like that happens," said local weather expert Ben Gelber, author of "Pocono Weather" and a meteorologist in Columbus, Ohio.

The remains of two hurricanes — Frances and Ivan — did hit the area again in September 2004, pushing the Delaware River to its absolute limit. But those storms were dwarfed by those that hit the Poconos in 1955.

"Connie was a pretty weak system in terms of wind, but it brought a lot of rain," East Stroudsburg University meteorology professor Jeff Hardy said. "But then a week later when Diane came through,

See **PUNCH**, Page A3



Courtesy of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

The village of Delaware Water Gap suffered a triple threat in 1955: flooding from Brodhead Creek, Cherry Creek and the Delaware River. Water rose up to just a few feet below the Main Street traffic light, according to newspaper accounts.

RECORD RAINFALLS

CONNIE (Aug. 11-13, 1955)
Stroudsburg: 6.82 inches
Mount Pocono: 9.84

DIANE (Aug. 18-19, 1955)
Stroudsburg: 6.15
Mt. Pocono: 10.63
during heaviest 24-hour period

GLORIA (Sept. 26-27, 1985)
Stroudsburg: 6.59

FRANCES (Sept. 8-9, 2004)
Stroudsburg: 3.46

IVAN (Sept. 16-18, 2004)
Stroudsburg: 5.03
Pocono Lake: 9.50

Frances and Ivan saw the heaviest combined rainfall since Connie and Diane in 1955, but did not exceed those amounts.

TOP RECORD: On Aug. 1, 1913, 7.5 inches fell in four hours. There was little flooding.

Source: "Pennsylvania Weather Book" by Ben Gelber

The FLOOD of '55

SPECIAL SERIES

on the 50th anniversary of a natural disaster that changed the face of the Poconos

TODAY:

- How storms combined to create devastation, **Pages A1-3**
- Books, DVDs about flood endure, **A3**

TUESDAY:

Daring rescues in East Stroudsburg.

WEDNESDAY:

Stroudsburg survivors tell their stories; inside an emergency shelter.

THURSDAY:

Children die at deadly Camp Davis.

FRIDAY:

Aftermath: Searching for survivors, starting years of reconstruction.

SATURDAY:

Impact on Tocks Island; a 50-year-old marks birthday as 'flood baby.'

SUNDAY:

Can such a flood ever devastate the Poconos again?

Date night at Sherman turns frightening

Russ Irwin of Smithfield Township was in the Sherman Theater, Stroudsburg, that night. He tried three different routes to get his date home to East Stroudsburg. Here, he tells his story:

Word came through that the town was flooded and bridges were out. At that time, I suspect nobody really believed it.

As we crossed Fifth Street, we got quite a surprise as the road was closed and we could see that the borough shed (then on Fourth Street) was in the middle of what looked like a lake. We thought a water main had broken.

We drove up to Stokes Mill and learned that road was closed. Now we were getting a little concerned.

We then drove to Analomink and found out that bridge was also closed. By that time, a crowd was gathering, and someone mentioned that Camp Davis was gone. That is when it really hit us. I had delivered milk to Camp Davis at 5:30 that morning and now the camp did not even exist.

We could hear people screaming. They were hanging in the trees. And the screaming stopped. One can only speculate why.

The next day I was able to get to East Stroudsburg by climbing across the railroad ties and tracks just above Analomink off



Russ Irwin of Smithfield Township was a young man on a date at the Sherman Theater when the Flood of '55 happened.



Cherry Lane Road. The railroad bridge was gone, but the tracks were still hanging.

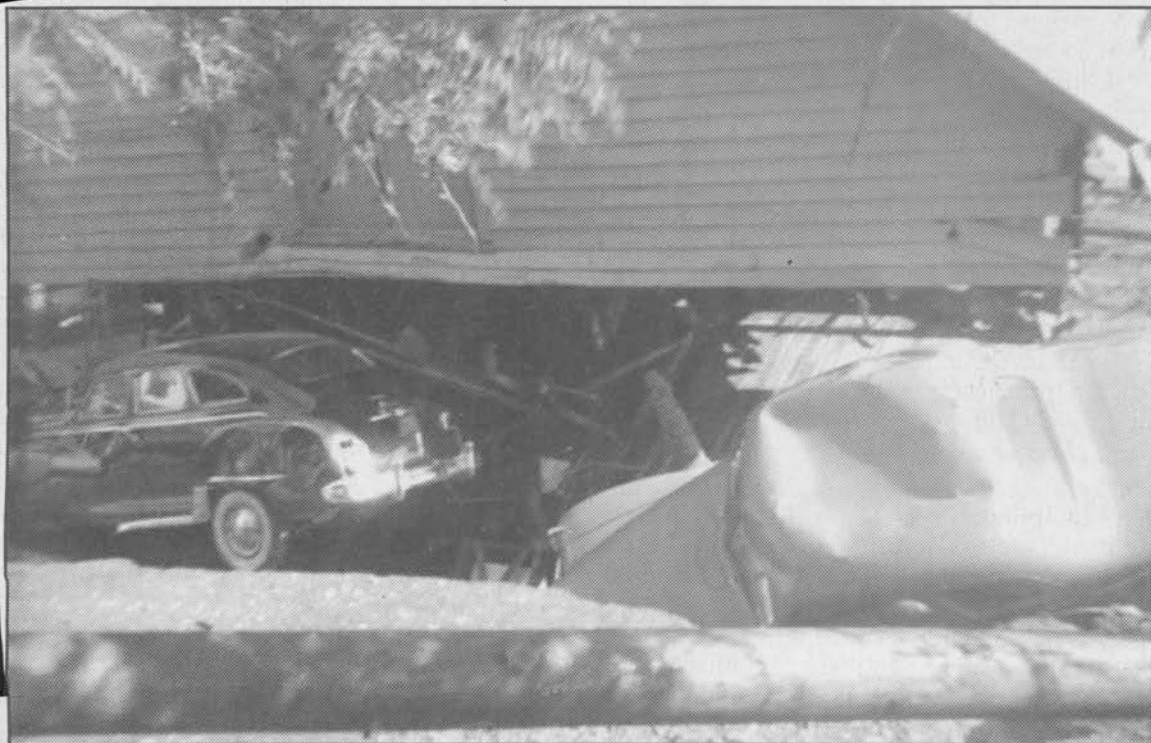
My family owned Penn-Dell Dairy at the time. Travel into East Stroudsburg was somewhat limited and, because of that, very little raw milk was available to process. So we started pasteurizing water. Pow-

er had been restored to East Stroudsburg in eight or nine hours. We filled every available bottle, carton and can with water and gave it to anyone who could come and get it. Many people brought their own containers.

We also owned the ice plant and gave away tons and tons of ice so folks could keep their perishables cold. *Life* magazine gave us quite a nice write-up, complete with photos.

One of the real heroes during this ordeal was Jim Litts. Jim saw a way to get a bridge open between the two towns. The Stokes Mill bridge was still partially intact. In fact, the center span was still standing. Jim and his (fire company volunteers) started hauling in fill to close the gap between the stream bank and the bridge and had a semblance of traffic restored in a matter of days.

My date stayed with my parents on Sixth Street for three or four days until we could get her home.



Courtesy of James Marsh

Among the scenes photographed by James Marsh at 15 years old: crushed cars and debris under a house in Stroudsburg.

PUNCH

From Page A1

there was just so much moisture already in the ground it couldn't be contained. It was really a freak occurrence, having two big storms like that. Sometimes, things just go against the odds."

The irony of the devastating drenching the area received in 1955 was that the county was in the throes of one of the hottest, driest summers on record.

As a comparison, the area's most recent severe drought was in July 1999, when the average high temperature each day was 90.8 degrees and just under one inch of rain fell for the month.

But in July 1955, the average high temperature was 92.7 degrees and only 0.61 inch of

rain fell.

The temperature hit 103 twice in 1955, once in July and once in August — numbers that have never been topped.

"It was the hottest summer on record," Gelber said.

So when Hurricane Connie blew in on Aug. 11, the storm was well-received. By the time rain had ended on Aug. 13, leaving behind bright, clear skies, 6.82 inches of rain had fallen in Stroudsburg, with 9.84 inches in Mount Pocono, Gelber said. It was a cause of joy for many people who lived off the land, and not a cause of concern.

When forecasters started tracking Hurricane Diane soon after, no one thought it would pose a major threat to the area, even when it made landfall in North Carolina on Aug. 17.

"People still thought it would push back out to sea," he said. "Obviously, that didn't happen."

Instead, Diane made a beeline for the Poconos, arriving here early on Thursday, Aug. 18, and leaving by early in the day Friday.

Diane's 24-hour visit dropped 6.15 inches of rain in the Stroudsburg area, onto an already saturated ground. In Mount Pocono, 10.75 inches of rain fell from the storm, and 10.63 inches of that fell within a 24-hour period.

All that rain had to go somewhere. It ran off the mountain into Brodhead Creek both directly and indirectly, flooding the creek and its tributaries with more water than they could handle.

The resulting floods killed 78 people, washed away 42 bridges and caused damage that disrupted life for months to come.

The Flood of 1955 was the worst natural disaster in the history of the Poconos.

"At least since the region was settled," Gelber said. "Nothing tops the Flood of '55."



Residents wade and row along Trenton Road in Hulmeville.

Photos by
Jerry Jonas

Two hurricanes a week apart — the disastrous 1955 flood

As a writer/photographer for a local newspaper, I witnessed and photographed much of the resulting mayhem and devastation.



Jerry Jonas

215-949-0376
jerryjonas@gmail.com

Sixty years ago this month, two major hurricanes arriving less than a week apart created the worst flooding in the history of eastern Pennsylvania. I will remember each of them and the havoc left in their wake.

As a writer/photographer for a local newspaper, I witnessed and photographed much of the resulting mayhem and devastation.

It was early August 1955, and Betty and I, having been married less than a month, were planning a move to Lower Bucks County, where I had recently been hired by the *Evening Press*, then one of the area's daily newspapers.

At the time, the chief topic of conversation here was the weather. Like most of the northeastern United States, Bucks County had been in the grip of a six-week-long drought and heat wave.

Since early June, the temperature had rarely dipped below 90 degrees and at times (including July 16, our wedding day) had exceeded 100. This in an era when home air conditioning was almost non-existent.

Even worse, there had been no measurable precipitation, and nearly everyone was hoping desperately for rain. We would soon get more than our share of it.

On Tuesday, Aug. 2, the afternoon temperature was a scorching 102 degrees. By 6 p.m., it still hovered at 100. The only visible signs of possible relief were weather reports forecasting the possibility of scattered showers for Sunday.

As predicted, that Sunday, Aug. 7, a series of heavy thundershowers would bring a much needed respite from the stifling heat. Yes, these storms were merely a taste of what nature still had in store.

Far to the southeast, a few hundred miles off the Florida coast, a hurricane was forming. Named Connie by the U.S. Weather Bureau, it was moving northwest and would soon threaten the U.S. mainland.

Only a year before, a hurricane named Hazel had passed directly over eastern Pennsylvania and had wrought extensive damage to life and property. The path Connie would take was still anyone's guess.

On Wednesday, Aug. 10, the U.S. Weather Bureau report included both



Boaters navigate Taylor Avenue in Newportville, Bristol Township.

good and bad news. Connie was now stalled off the South Carolina coast, with winds of 135 mph, and there were indications if she struck the mainland at all, it would only be as a mild storm.

But in the Caribbean, another hurricane was forming. This one would be named Diane.

At Neshaminy High School, the Red Cross began setting up headquarters and bringing in food, blankets and cots. At the then-brand-new Lower Bucks Hospital, generators were being readied for emergency service should normal power fail. Along the Neshaminy Creek and at Warner Cove in Tullytown, countless small boats were seeking whatever shelter they could find.

The following day, Thursday, Aug. 11, a spokesperson at the U.S. Weather Bureau station in Trenton stated firmly, "Connie will not strike Bucks County. It will pass about 150 miles off the New Jersey coast."

He then added, "Connie's little sister, Diane, is not a threat at all. She won't bother us. She's flitting around Bermuda and it looks like she'll settle down there." Ominously, in Lower Bucks, rain was already falling.

During the afternoon and throughout the night of Friday, Aug. 12, Connie's

high winds and heavy rains pounded the Bucks County area. In less than two days, more than six inches of rain would fall — more than four inches in 24 hours.

Already, the Delaware River, the sewers, and most of the area's lakes and streams were beginning to overflow. In Bristol Borough, the Delaware River was spilling onto the Mill Street parking lot. In Levittown, Oxford Valley and Emilie roads were re flooded in places to a depth of more than five feet, and sections of Woodbourne Road were also covered with five feet of water.

Many of the streets in the Thornridge section of Levittown were submerged, and in sections of Route 413 between Langhorne and Newtown, the water rose to more than three feet.

Families living along the quickly rising Neshaminy Creek from Langhorne Terrace to Croydon were fleeing their homes in panic.

Although Connie had by now lost most of her strength and was headed out to sea, the fledgling Diane, although still far away, was quickly gaining in intensity.

By Tuesday, Aug. 16, four days had passed, and much of the mess left by Connie had been cleaned up. But again, ominous signals were coming from the south. Diane had reached the Carolinas,

and once again the entire East Coast was on hurricane alert. History seemed to be repeating itself, and all too rapidly.

For a brief period, it seemed there might be a reprieve. On Wednesday, Aug. 17, Diane was still slashing the Carolinas, but it appeared she had lost most of her energy. Now only high winds and some rain were expected along her path.

The following day, Thursday, Aug. 18, disaster struck. In Pennsylvania, the skies opened up and throughout the afternoon, the entire state was deluged. In some locales, more than 10 inches of rain fell in a matter of hours.

Every river and creek in the state was spilling over its banks. Streets were flooded, and bridges were washed away. In Lower Bucks County, the raging Neshaminy Creek washed away homes in Newportville, Hulmeville, Fergusonville, and Langhorne Terrace, and was overflowing the bridge at Newportville Road — a bridge that was normally 15 feet above the water's surface.

I vividly recall a concerned policeman shouting at me to "get off that bridge" as I stood at its center, in rapidly moving water, snapping photos.

Along the Delaware River, houses were wiped out, and some even carried downstream. Three homes smashed into the Yardley-West Trenton bridge, demolishing it. Farther north, both the Point Pleasant and Easton bridges were badly damaged by floating debris.

In Morrisville, the river rose 22 feet above normal, cresting at 28.6 feet.

In Lower Bucks County alone, nearly 500 families had to be evacuated from their homes. Some individuals sought shelter on rooftops and tree tops, where they would be eventually rescued by helicopters from the Johnsville Naval Air Station in Warminster.

In Yardley, Lower Makefield and New Hope, water covered the rooftops of homes and some residents there were also driven onto treetops. In Bristol Borough, homes on Radcliffe Street and businesses on Mill Street were flooded.

For Bucks County families living near water, the summer of 1955 was a disaster that would leave more than 1,000 individuals homeless. It was an experience that anyone who witnessed it (this writer included) will never forget.

Jerry Jonas' opinion column appears in the Life Section every Sunday. Reach him at 215-949-0376; email: jerryjonas@gmail.com.



The Neshaminy Creek flows over a section of the New Falls Road bridge.

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Residents wade and row along Trenton Road in Hulmeville.

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Sixty years ago this month, two major hurricanes arriving less than a week



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Sherman Theater cuts short movie, turns into emergency shelter

By **SUSAN KOOMAR**

News and Business Editor

Patrons grumbled as they were sent home from the Sherman Theater before "To Catch a Thief" was over.

Their summer interlude with Cary Grant and Grace Kelly on the French Riviera met an abrupt end.

"The police came and said, 'Shut the theater.' It was before anybody found out who was the thief," said Lettie Lladoc, daughter of theater manager Letha Morse.

Lladoc and her mother went home, only to have police ask that the theater be reopened a few hours later.

There was no electricity to show movies. Just lots of space for people chased from their homes by unexpected waves.

"There were lights and boats — people being brought from the flatlands," Lladoc recalled seeing as she looked downtown.

Water sent beer kegs crashing through the Sherman's basement door. There was a beer distributor behind the theater.

Lladoc's father brought a Coleman stove, and the Red Cross supplied cots. The theater became home to 30 or 40 families for at least two weeks.

"Everybody jumped in and helped," said Lladoc.

People listened to the radio to find out if loved ones across the Brodhead had survived.

"They would read the names on the radio. 'The following people are safe in East Stroudsburg ... The following people are safe in Stroudsburg,'" said Lladoc, who was 14 at the time.

Two theater employees made it home to East Stroudsburg before the interborough bridge was destroyed. They even found a way to get back to



AMY PATERSON/Pocono Record

At the time of the flood, Lettie Lladoc's mom managed the Sherman Theater, which was used as a shelter for victims. The theater became home to 30 or 40 families for at least two weeks.

work later — they swam.

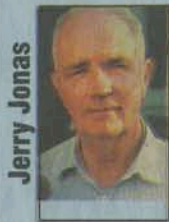
Lladoc's family was in the process of moving from Scott Street to Monroe Street. Both houses became filled with friends displaced by damage.

Lladoc still had the flood in mind years later when she moved from Stroudsburg to Stroud Township. Her ranch house sits on a steep, curvy road off Route 611.

"That's why I live on this hill," she said. "That last storm (that caused flooding in April) was a little scary."

— the disastrous 1955 flood

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For a brief period, it seemed there might be a reprieve. On Wednesday, Aug. 17, Diane was still slashing the Carolinas, but it appeared she had lost most of her energy. Now only high winds and some rain were expected along her path.

The following day, Thursday, Aug. 18, disaster struck. In Pennsylvania, the skies opened up and throughout the afternoon, the entire state was deluged. In some locales, more than 10 inches of rain fell in a matter of hours.

Every river and creek in the state was spilling over its banks. Streets were flooded, and bridges were washed away. In Lower Bucks County, the raging Neshaminy Creek washed away homes in Newportville, Hulmeville, Fergusonville, and Langhorne Terrace, and was overflowing the bridge at Newportville Road — a bridge that was normally 15 feet above the water's surface.

I vividly recall a concerned policeman shouting at me to "get off that bridge" as I stood at its center, in rapidly moving water, snapping photos.

Along the Delaware River, houses were wiped out, and some even carried downstream. Three homes smashed into the Yardley-West Trenton bridge, demolishing it. Farther north, both the Point Pleasant and Easton bridges were badly damaged by floating debris.

In Morrisville, the river rose 22 feet above normal, cresting at 28.6 feet.

In Lower Bucks County alone, nearly 500 families had to be evacuated from their homes. Some individuals sought shelter on rooftops and tree tops, where they would be eventually rescued by helicopters from the Johnsville Naval Air Station in Warminster.

In Yardley, Lower Makefield and New Hope, water covered the rooftops of homes and some residents there were also driven onto treetops. In Bristol Borough, homes on Radcliffe Street and businesses

series of heavy thundershowers would bring a much needed respite from the stifling heat. Yet, these storms were merely a taste of what nature still had in store.

Far to the southeast, a few hundred miles off the Florida coast, a hurricane was forming. Named Connie by the U.S. Weather Bureau, it was moving northwest and would soon threaten the U.S. mainland.

Only a year before, a hurricane named Hazel had passed directly over eastern Pennsylvania and had wrought extensive damage to life and property. The path Connie would take was still anyone's guess.

On Wednesday, Aug. 10, the U.S. Weather Bureau report included both

and along the Neshaminy Creek at Warner Cove in Tullytown, countless small boats were seeking whatever shelter they could find.

The following day, Thursday, Aug. 11, a spokesperson at the U.S. Weather Bureau station in Trenton stated firmly, "Connie will not strike Bucks County. It will pass about 150 miles off the New Jersey coast."

He then added, "Connie's little sister, Diane, is not a threat at all. She won't bother us. She's flitting around Bermuda and it looks like she'll settle down there."

Ominously, in Lower Bucks, rain was already falling.

During the afternoon and throughout the night of Friday, Aug. 12, Connie's

many of the streets in the Levittown section of Levittown were submerged, and in sections of Route 413 between Langhorne and Newtown, the water rose to more than three feet.

Families living along the quickly rising Neshaminy Creek from Langhorne Terrace to Croydon were fleeing their homes in panic.

Although Connie had by now lost most of her strength and was headed out to sea, the fledgling Diane, although still far away, was quickly gaining in intensity.

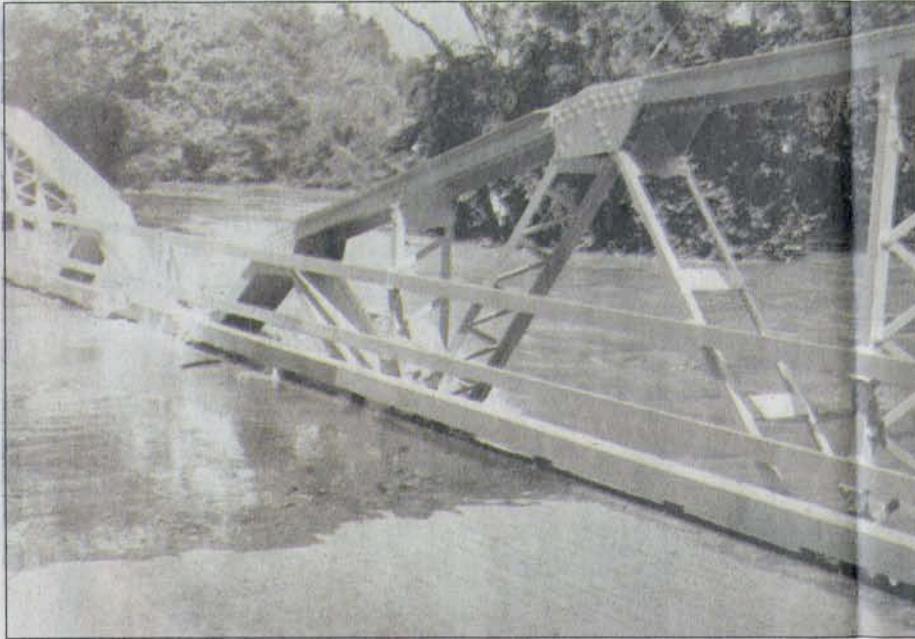
By Tuesday, Aug. 16, four days had passed, and much of the mess left by Connie had been cleaned up. But again, ominous signals were coming from the south. Diane had reached the Carolinas,

they would be eventually rescued by helicopters from the Johnsville Naval Air Station in Warminster

In Yardley, Lower Makefield and New Hope, water covered the rooftops of homes and some residents there were also driven onto treetops. In Bristol Borough, homes on Radcliffe Street and businesses on Mill Street were flooded.

For Bucks County families living near water, the summer of 1955 was a disaster that would leave more than 1,000 individuals homeless. It was an experience that anyone who witnessed it (this writer included) will never forget.

Jerry Jonas' opinion column appears in the Life Section every Sunday. Reach him at 215-949-0376; email: jerryjonas@gmail.com.



The Neshaminy Creek flows over a section of the New Falls Road Bridge.

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'There Were About 40 of Us'

Mother Tells of Fears, Prayers at Camp Davis

This is the dramatic story of the disaster at Camp Davis in the Poconos. It was told to Edward J. Hussie, Inquirer reporter, by Mrs. Jennie Johnson, 48-year-old Jersey City housewife, from her bed in Monroe County General Hospital:

By **MRS. JENNIE JOHNSON**

Copyright, 1955, The Philadelphia Inquirer

EAST STROUDSBURG, Pa., Aug. 20.

THERE were about 40 of us . . .

Most were children, including my daughter, Nancy, 19, and my two boys, Roy, 14, and David, 10 . . . We were spending a five-week vacation at Camp Davis.

Just about sunset Thursday we took a walk down to Brodhead Creek to see if the water was rising . . . It was rushing past but almost looked pretty . . . At the time we didn't think there was anything to worry about.

We returned to our bungalow and sat around for about



SITE OF CAMP DAVIS IS NOW A SANDBAR (RIGHT)

half an hour. We were talking and the children began playing games.

Suddenly it happened . . . A gush of water hit the bungalow and started to rip it apart . . . Furniture was being upended by the water as we fled to seek safety in the big winter house . . . All of the other people at the camp crowded into the place.

First we gathered on the first floor . . . Water entered the house . . . We climbed to the second . . . The water got higher . . . And finally we were forced into the attic.

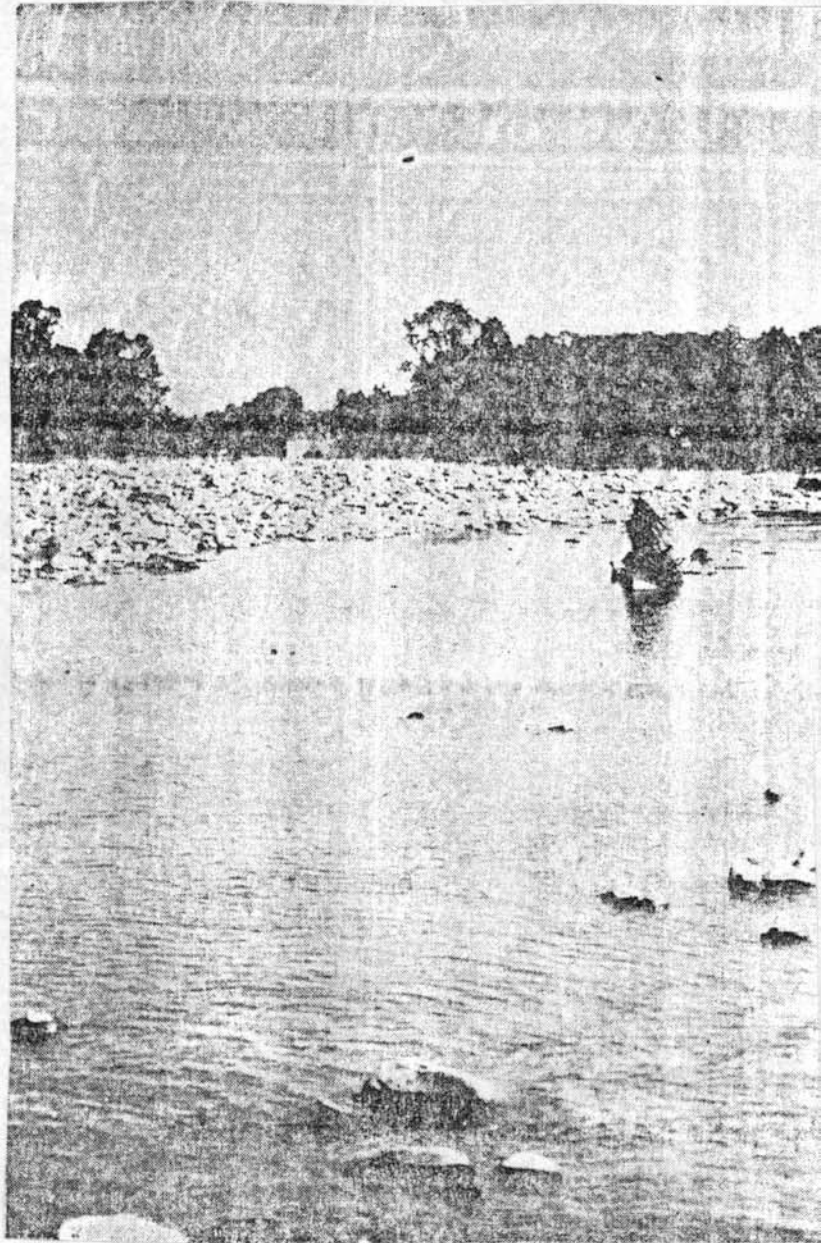
IT WAS dark . . . so dark.

The children were all screaming, screaming and crying.

Most of them were hysterical . . . They kept getting a little worse all the time, for about a half hour . . . Then the roof just opened up.

The house was split in two . . . Just as if somebody had taken

Continued on Page 4, Column 8



THIS WAS CAMP DAVIS near Analomink. It was the scene of the greatest single disaster in terms of life. Guests at the religious camp, founded by a retired Baptist minister from Nanuet,

N. Y., took refuge in a large, central building. The building was swept away. (U. S. Army Photo by Gre.)

THEIR BODIES SLUMPED IN DESPAIR, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Weber, Paterson, N. J., sit on the edge of a cot in an East Stroudsburg Red Cross shelter. The Webers lost their two children in the flood when it hit ill-fated Camp Davis. Their tragedy was shared by many other families whose children or relatives

had been guests at the camp. For the Webers, the waiting was over early; the bodies of their children were found. For others, the uncertainty dragged on for days. Some of the bodies still have not been recovered. (American Red Cross Photo)

Flood Waters Bring Tragedy



MORE THAN TWO SCORE DEAD. This is the area from which Camp Davis was wiped away on the night of August 18. To left foreground lies Pinebrook. Creek running through center of picture diagonally is the Brodheads. Water from the creek came down narrow creek bed (upper center), split into two sec-

tions, one following its normal course, the other swerving to its left under the railroad trestle and along Route 90. Trestle and creek bridge were both demolished. Camp Davis cabins were swept away.

(U. S. Army Photo by James Poole)

As many as four bingo players never made it home in August 1955 — and the East Stroudsburg fire hall collapsed after being swamped.



Courtesy of Matt Sobrinski

Bingo night turns deadly for 4

By **SUSAN KOOMAR**

News and Business Editor

Bingo players filled Fireman's Hall on Day Street, but nobody gave much notice when firefighters were called out because of rising water in the borough.

A taxi arrived, and Marian Perri decided she'd better get home to her kids. A neighbor was watching her son and daughter on Ninth Street, Stroudsburg.

"I got up to go and I'm glad I did," said



Marian Perri of East Stroudsburg left bingo early on the night of the flood. 'I'm glad I did,' says Perri. 'When we got to Main Street, the water was even with the cab door.'

Perri. "When we got to Main Street, the water was even with the cab door."

See **BINGO**, Page **A4**

BINGO

From Page A1

Louise Hawk and a friend stayed 'til the games ended.

"They were going to call it a night because the firemen were needed to help evacuate people," Hawk recalled.

The players were promised extra games the following week to make up for the event cut short.

But as many as four players never made it home — and the fire hall collapsed after being swamped.

Perri spent the night lighting candles (her kids kept blowing them out) and listening to truck drivers talk over their radios about flood damage as their trucks idled outside her home. The trucks were stranded as bridges washed out.

Perri's husband, George, spent a harrowing night at Empire Box Co. near Delaware Water Gap. Part of the building broke away, battered by flood-borne debris.

"He had a brand-new outfit on that night. It was green, and when he came home it was gray," said Perri.

After the flood, Perri had to cross the Brodhead by boat and have a friend pick her up by car on the other side so she could get to work at Mountain Lake House in Marshalls Creek. She was a housekeeper there for almost 50 years.

In 1962, the Perris bought

"The news of many deaths was unbelievable. ... How fortunate that we got out (of the bingo hall) alive and back across the bridge within 10 or 15 minutes of it being destroyed."

LOUISE HAWK
flood survivor

a house across from the bingo hall site that had been so badly flooded less than 10 years before. The hall was rebuilt, and Perri's granddaughter had her wedding reception there.

Louise Hawk had just graduated from East Stroudsburg State Teachers College a few months before the flood. After, she volunteered at the Stroudsburg Methodist Church emergency shelter where typhoid shots were given.

"It was the first shot I ever had," said Hawk. "In those days needles were used over and over and I ran the (machine) that sterilized them."

Hawk is still astounded at the disaster.

"The news of many deaths was unbelievable. How could something like this happen in the Stroudsburg area?" she wondered. "How fortunate that we got out (of the bingo hall) alive and back across the bridge within 10 or 15 minutes of it being destroyed."

Little was left but mud: A volunteer's account

For Robert Roberts of East Stroudsburg, the sound of rushing water was a call to service.

Roberts, a Civil Defense volunteer, and his brother, Stan, were in their 20s at the time. They left home during the flood, delivering supplies in Stan's boat and moving stranded people to shelter.

The Roberts brothers carried people across the water from the Day Street and Stokes Mill Road areas of the Stroudsburgs. Pictures taken by Roberts show a safety line strung across the water for the boat to travel by.

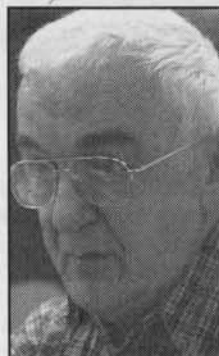
He remembers seeing a building with a car hanging out of the window, the old Firestone building on Washington Street under mud, and cars flipped in the National Guard Armory's back lot. Trees were brought to the ground under at least 10 feet of water near Stokes Mill Road, and where Dansbury Park is today was completely submerged.

"I felt sorry, but had to do what came natural; you have to do what you can," Roberts said.

As the water calmed the next day, Roberts walked two miles to the Lincoln Avenue area, trying to track down some friends.

"That was the worst I had it," he says. "Most of the people were wiped out, houses were gone. People I was looking especially for were gone, or beneath my feet." Little was left but the mud on which he was standing.

— Jessica Serrano



ROBERT ROBERTS of East Stroudsburg was a Civil Defense volunteer in 1955.



■ **Left:** Robert Roberts and his brother rescued stranded residents and ferried supplies between Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg during the flood.

■ **Left:** When he wasn't using his boat to help others, Roberts took photos of the destruction.

Photos courtesy of Robert Roberts

The **FLOOD** of '55

SPECIAL SERIES
on the 50th anniversary of a natural disaster
that changed the face of the Poconos

T O D A Y :

- Daring rescues and painful memories in East Stroudsburg, **Pages A1, A4, A8.**
- Where the water rose in Stroudsburg/East Stroudsburg: a map, **A8.**
- Boxer fights back for his family, **C1.**

W E D N E S D A Y :

Stroudsburg survivors tell their stories; inside an emergency shelter.

T H U R S D A Y :

Children die at deadly Camp Davis.

F R I D A Y :

Aftermath: Searching for survivors, starting years of reconstruction.

S A T U R D A Y :

Impact on Tocks Island; a 50-year-old marks birthday as 'flood baby.'

S U N D A Y :

Can such a flood ever devastate the Poconos again?

Flood flattens Lincoln Ave. area: A reader's account of his family's survival

By **MATT SOBRINSKI**



Imagine rising, rushing flood waters forcing you and your children to climb onto your roof after dark. While trapped on the peak, you peer next door to your mother's house, where she and your 6-year-old are trapped inside. For hours, you huddle on the roof, surrounded by water, waiting for help, wanting to believe they are still alive.

See **LINCOLN**, Page **A4**



MATT SOBRINSKI

was not yet born in 1955, but he has heard his family's harrowing story many times.

■ **Above:** Amelia Murphy, left, and her daughter, Mary, in 1948 — seven years before the flood would threaten both of their lives. Mary lost her photos in the flood but, years later, her children asked the wedding photographer to search his negatives. This is one of the reprints given to the couple on their 25th anniversary.



DAVID KIDWELL/Pocono Record

Drink up!

Basant Valley High School football player Josh Rittenhouse slurps some water during the first day of fall sports practice Monday morning. For more photos from the opening day of practice, see **Page B1 and B3**.

Bronx teen drowns in Delaware River

GEMA DUARTE

Pocono Record Writer

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP — A kayaking trip in the Delaware River near Freeman Point turned deadly on Saturday for a 17-year-old boy from the Bronx, N.Y.

Elizer Vazquez took a swim in the river within the Delaware WaterGap National Recreation

Area and drowned as he struggled to swim across it.

After nearly a two-hour search by the park's dive team, Vazquez' body was found in water about 14 feet deep.

Vazquez' outdoor trip with his two friends and their father, Ricardo Morales, started at the Bushkill access area off Route 209 and were heading to Smith-

field Beach.

But their Saturday trip took a detour when Morales and other boaters were unsuccessful in rescuing the boy from the currents of the river, which were running about 1 to 3 mph.

Vazquez tried to get his friends to swim with him, said river district ranger, A.J. North, but their father (Morales) de-

manded they didn't.

Already alert to the possible danger, Morales ran to get a kayak in case Vazquez needed assistance, North said.

The park's dispatch center received the rescue call at 1:12 p.m. The body was found just before 3 p.m. and was transported to Pocono Medical Center.

District Attorney's Office failed to notify the attorney of a man charged with killing a woman while driving drunk, the lawyer reportedly was vacationing in Europe on Monday when he should have been in court with his client for an arraignment.

District Attorney Dave Christine said he learned notice was accidentally sent to the Public Defender's Office instead of to Emmaus attorney Craig Nealy, representing Charles Ogden Fisher II, 47, of Kunkletown.

"It was a clerical error," Christine said. "It's not unusual something like this would happen, given the amount of notices we send out to attorneys."

Because of the error, Fisher's arraignment was continued to Monday, Aug. 22, but he said his lawyer will not be back from vacation for two weeks.

"Somebody screwed up," an exasperated Fisher, who is out on bail, told reporters as he walked out of President Judge Ronald Vican's courtroom. "I got the paper and told my lawyer last week to be here today."

said.

In Fisher can ask to continue until his attorney

Fisher driving a it, 70, of 2004, on of Doney ship. His VIII swer lane and Saturn he

Cherit at the sc was wear injured, s

Stroud woman charged with stabbing man

Hawley taps PennDOT pedes

By **CHERYL GREDLEIN**

Pocono Record Writer

Help with pedestrian safety on busy streets is available from the Pennsylvania Department of Transporta-

Cotter said there were 174 fatal crashes involving pedestrians in the state in 2003. In 2004, there were 187 in the country.

"When you put it all together, it's a big

Area Residents Begin Grim Cleanup Work After 'Worst' Flood

Lehigh, Panther Valleys Getting Back to Normal; Still Many Trouble Spots

Tired men and women, all but beaten by the worst flood eastern Pennsylvania has ever seen, pushed themselves a little harder yesterday to clear the Lehigh and Panther Valley areas of dead and debris.

By last night some of the hardest hit sections could show heartening progress but workers have days, and weeks, of depressing work ahead.

While telephone, gas and power line crews worked to finish restoration of service, Civil Defense, Red Cross and other volunteer agencies saw to the feeding and clothing of flood victims hurt and made homeless.

Few Boards, Sea of Mud Left at Davis

By HARRISON M. HENRITZY

I went to Camp Davis this morning.

I wish I hadn't.

That once beautiful camp, which had 10 cottages, a lovely dining hall and a recreation room, is now only a few scattered boards, a sea of mud and scattered household goods and furnishings.

It was in this camp, located nearly five miles north of Stroudsburg, near Analomink, where some 40 New York and New Jersey residents were vacationing until flood waters swept away their camp.

There were only nine known survivors.

Most of those lost in the angry Brodheads Creek were youngsters who ranged in age from five to 15 years. Many of their parents and guardians are among the dead and missing.

I rode on trucks, jeeps, motor boats and finally had to resort to shank's mare to cover the evacuation of five bodies from a little island, nearly two miles below Camp Davis.

A pile of boards, evidently the side of one of the cottages, indicated I was at Camp Davis. I stopped, but not for long.

Recalls Okinawa

The stench of the dead — some of whom are believed buried beneath tons of mud and debris at the campsite — was too great. It reminded me of Okinawa.

Several pieces of children's clothing could be seen scattered about the area, as well as cooking utensils, several blouses and a few pieces of furniture, all mud-

covered. The Samuelsons' son, Joel, 18, and William Connor, 16, and Robert Tabachnikoff, 17, both of Philadelphia, had gone to a movie Thursday night. When they got out, they were unable to return to camp. They went to Joel's home. Last night the Samuelsons were trying to reach the parents of the other two boys in Philadelphia to tell them they were safe.

All Listed Safe

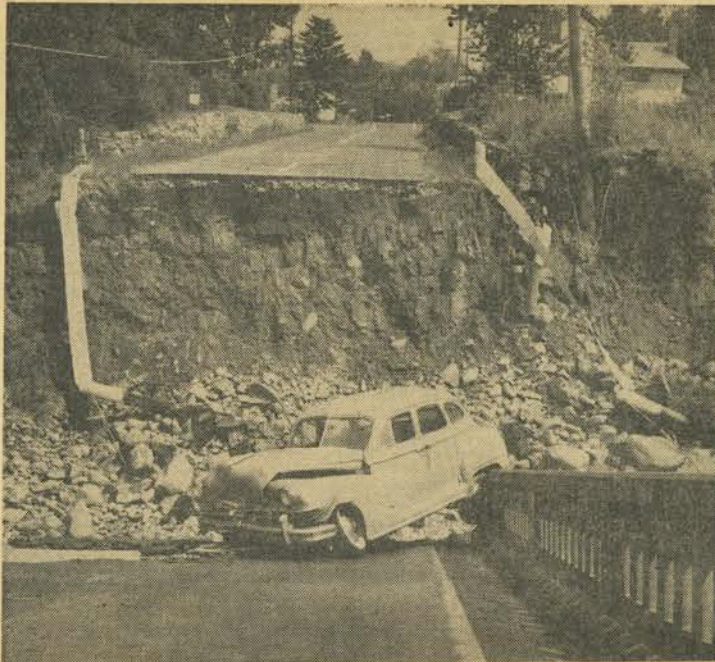
All persons in the Lake Minisink area have been reported safe, according to Sam Gougher, Northampton Borough letter carrier.

The lake area includes land between Resicca to Pickerel Inn, the east on Dingman's road as far as Nice's Dam.

Telephone and light lines are down, but roads are open and deep wells are providing good drinking water.

In Tamaqua and Weissport, two of the hardest hit towns, families returned gradually toward "normal living." They still face the job of cleaning away thousands of tons of mud and debris.

National Guard units were relieved in Tamaqua and Lehighton Saturday and the state of emergency was lifted. Many guardsmen, finished working for others, went home to mud-soaked water-



LOWER POCONO FLOOD DAMAGE—Property destruction in the area from the lower Pocono Mountains to the Pocono Lake area was extensive. The upper left photo shows a car driven by Albert Warner of Blakeslee which plunged into Pocono Lake when the bridge on Route 940 was destroyed by the storm. Warner suffered no serious injuries. The main street of South Stroudsburg is shown in the lower left picture. It was cut in half by the Tobyhanna River and swept over 100 yards from its original site. A concrete bridge for Route 940 across the Tobyhan-



Sterling Creek changed its course north of the community. The wrecked amusement building at Toby Park on Route 115 near Blakeslee Corners is shown in the lower left picture. It was cut in half by the Tobyhanna River and swept over 100 yards from its original site. A concrete bridge for Route 940 across the Tobyhan-

'Devastation on the Delaware' an obsession for Bucks County writer

By **MICHAEL SADOWSKI**
Pocono Record Writer

It touched her so much, she couldn't help but write about it.

So for three years, that's what Bucks County writer Mary A. Shafer did: research and write about the Flood of 1955.

The culmination of her work is "Devastation on the Delaware," a narrative nonfiction documentary book based on the events of the Aug. 18-19 flood that raged down the Delaware River valley, from New York state to Philadelphia.

"It's been an obsession, really," she said. "Not in a bad way. But it's just been something I've been so interested in. It's been an amazing project."

The ruins the flood made of the Poconos is an integral part of the book. Shafer researched the damage done throughout the area, including the ravaging of a spot that came to be known as Camp Davis, just south of Analomink.

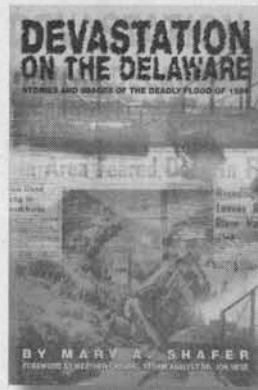
Camp Davis was a group of about 12 cabins inhabited by summer visitors attending the nearby Pinebrook Bible Conference Center. Thirty-eight adults and children died when the site was wiped out by the raging Brodhead Creek. Only nine people who were there that night survived.

In her initial interviews of witnesses to the flood, Shafer found her idea for a book would be well-received, if a bit hesitantly.

"The first thing I found is that people still have a hard time talking or even thinking about it," Shafer said about the flood that killed 78 people in Monroe County. "But the other thing I found was that when I told them I was working on a book about the flood, the response was almost always the same — it's about time."



Mary Shafer of Bucks County has been writing a book about the Flood of 1955 for three years. 'It's been an amazing project,' she says.



'Devastation on the Delaware' will be published Oct. 1.

"Devastation on the Delaware" will be published by Word Forge Books, a division of the author's freelance writing business. The 6- x 9-inch softcover book is 440 pages, with more than 75 black-and-white photographs, 10 maps and diagrams. Visit www.55flood.com, or call toll free, (888) 320-9673. Fifty cents from each copy sold will be donated to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.



Courtesy of Tobyhanna Army Depot

Aerial view of the bridge at Highway 12 off Route 611.



MARIA HORN

Linda Kelso, survivor of the Flood of 1955, chats with Harriet DeRosa of Stroud Township and Lois Sheeley of Stroudsburg after the commemorative flood program at the Eastern Monroe Public Library.

Flood memories flow

By **LAUREN KURZ**

Pocono Record Writer

STROUD TOWNSHIP — Memories of the Flood of 1955 filled Eastern Monroe Community Library Sunday afternoon.

More than 150 people showed up to share stories of the flood, listen to survivors stories and to learn about the tragic, historic disaster.

The event was held by the Monroe County Historical Association in conjunction with the release of 30-minute DVD about the flood and the 50th anniversary of the natural disaster.

Speakers Helen Brown and Linda Kelso started the meeting with their flood stories and then audience members were asked to share their stories.

Many memories included hearing

screams for help, incredulity at rising, rushing waters and shock.

"It does affect your whole life," Jean Thompson Benson, who now lives in East Hanover, N.J., said.

Benson shared the story of how she lost her 8-year-old sister, 15-year old brother and mother in the Flood of 1955, describing it as "horrendous." The bodies of Benson's little sister and mother were found, but her brother's never was.

Letitia Morse Lladoc remembered the bravery of her mother, who was then the manager of the Sherman Theater in Stroudsburg.

She also remembered police officers coming and asking her and other neighborhood children to tell people to save water, as they might not have any soon.

Yet, Morse saw a positive side to the situation; as a 14-year-old girl she was able to be a part of a community pulling together.

"There was always a job to do," she said.

The historical society is encouraging anyone who wants to share memories of the flood to contact them so they can be interviewed for an oral history.

Another meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 18, at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Stroudsburg.

The DVD, which was previously available as a videotape, can be purchased at the historical association for \$20 plus tax.

The Monroe County Historical Association can be contacted at (570) 421-7703.

THE FLOOD of '55 'Just devastation'

15-year-old experiences
roar of water, stink
of mud, frightened
crowds, death of friend

By **SUSAN KOOMAR**
News and Business Editor

Jim Marsh explored flood waters by flashlight the night they surged, and recorded their destruction with his camera the next day.

Marsh, 15, was in bed when the power went out in Stroudsburg.

He and his family got up to investigate, their odyssey guided by one noise.

"We could hear this big roaring sound, like a train. No matter where you went there was this omnipresent roar of water," he said.

The call of Pocono Creek



James Marsh, left, a Stroudsburg attorney, ventured out to take photos after the flood. Below is his favorite: State Bridge (now known as Interborough Bridge) dislodged between Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg.



Courtesy James Marsh

MARSH

From Page **A1**

resist the urge to see what was left in the low-lying part of town.

He took the bag he used to deliver newspapers and convinced National Guardsmen to let him in the restricted area of Lower Main Street.

Marsh entered a world covered in "shiny, greasy, horrible-smelling mud."

"It was all over everything. I remember seeing all the poor people with their shovels. The stench was horrendous," he said.

Plate-glass windows of storefronts were smashed. Cars were piled in heaps.

"It was just devastation," he said.

His favorite photo shows the big metal bridge between the twin boroughs shoved downstream.

"That steel bridge had to have weighed hun-

dreds of tons," he said.

In Delaware Water Gap, Marsh saw something almost as amazing: a cow standing on an island-sized pile of debris as it floated down the river.

"I always wondered what happened to that cow," said Marsh.

Marsh felt the impact of the flood months later when the West Main Street bridge over Pocono Creek was being demolished.

His friend, John Kiefer, was down the street. Workers set off dynamite and Kiefer was killed by a piece of flying concrete.

Marsh still chuckles at some post-flood chicanery. Locals salvaged water-logged cars by cleaning them and selling them out of state.

"The buyers were doomed," he said.

Marsh, now 65, has a law practice in Stroudsburg and served as district attorney.

"The only thing worse than a flood car," he paused, "is a corpse car."

Sisters survive 'big piles of water'



"Everything was black and it sounded like the roar of an ocean. All we did was pray. Everybody was scared."

JOSEPHINE COOK

Lower Main Street, Stroudsburg, resident



"I wondered what it would be like to drown. ... It was very scary. No lights. No nothing. It's something you never forget."

HELEN GALLO

owner of Gallo's Bar, Lower Main Street, Stroudsburg

By **SUSAN KOOMAR**

News and Business Editor

Helen Gallo shined a flashlight onto Lower Main Street and saw water just two feet below the roof of a gas station.

"I got scared," she said. "I wondered what it would be like to drown."

Gallo and her sister, Josephine Cook, huddled with about 15 others in the second floor of the family's building at Third and Main.

The week of rain hadn't worried them until their brother called from Cresco around 10:30 that night.

"He said they had big piles

See **SISTERS**, Page **A4**

SISTERS

From Page **A1**

of water coming up behind his yard," recalled Cook.

Water began swamping Stroudsburg's bridges and gushing onto Main Street.

"It was so swift going through the street. It was very scary. No lights. No nothing. It's something you never forget," said Gallo.

Some people out to see the spectacle ended up seeking refuge in Gallo's Bar.

"We only had time to go up the steps," said Cook. "Everything was black and it sounded like the roar of an ocean. All we did was pray. Everybody was scared."

They waited upstairs until 5:30 a.m.

The water was gone, but Cook's new car was

ruined and so was the family business.

"The mud was thick outside. We had to throw everything out," she said.

That included whiskey and beer.

Cook's blue-and-white 1955 Ford landed across the street. The car had only 310 miles on it.

Gallo's Bar dates back to 1933. Helen Gallo went into business with her dad when she was 21.

The post-flood mess was so overwhelming she started to cry.

Her father said, "You know, Helen, you have no courage. But I'll always stick by you."

His photo still hangs over the bar, and Helen Gallo, now 79, still owns it. Her sister, 95, still lives off Lower Main Street and doesn't worry about another flood.

"If it takes my old furniture, I'll buy some new furniture," said Cook, 89.

It's easy to place a Want Ad to meet any requirement. Just dial VA 2-2121 and ask for Betty Brown the Want Ad girl.

BELLY FURNISHED BY WEEKLY REGISTER 1952

★ ★

Live Water Gushes into it Flood in Storm; 9 States hit Lewis Negotiates \$2 Soft Coal Increase

Stroudsburg Isolated, With 20 Dead, 20 Missing Property Losses State Fatalities May Reach Billion

The worst flood in the history of the Eastern United States continued its rampage through nine states last night with a death toll of at least 67 and property damage certain to run into billions of dollars. As the raging flood salvaged the remnants started in some areas, torrential rains continued to pound the New England area and the crisis there worsened through the night.

Governors of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Connecticut proclaimed a state of emergency. Gov. Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut sounded the mobilization alarm in blanching the sentiments of all.

Wires to President Eisenhower.

Class are faced with a major flood.

The latest reports put the biggest number of dead in Waterbury, Conn., the brass manufacturing center. Mayor Richard C. Lee of Waterbury said that Stroudsburg Mayor Raymond E. Snyder is saying at least 15 persons lost their lives. Mayor Lewis said Mayor Snyder "is not an alarmist."

Pact Expected To Be Ratified By UMW Today 2-stage Raise, Second Week's Vacation Due

Washington, Aug. 19 (AP)—John L. Lewis tonight was reported to have negotiated a new two-stage, 32-day wage contract in the soft coal industry.

The deal is due to be ratified here tomorrow by the United Mine Workers' Wage Policy Committee and probably be announced then. Lewis, the 73-year-old UMW president, was reported to have signed the pact with Harry M. Moses, president of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association.

Moses' group represents northeastern, southern and "outlying" mines owned by the steel industry. Lewis and Moses quietly negotiated the last coal agreement in 1952 without going through the formality of industry-wide negotiations. The rest of the industry went along reluctantly, particularly the southern mine owners.

The Chester, W. Va. Gazette reported the new agreement. It details as saying the new agreement between Lewis and Moses calls for a 15-cent an hour wage increase.

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Lackawanna River Damages Duryea Homes



One of the homes in Duryea inundated yesterday when Lackawanna River went over its banks was that of John Koytek, Cooper Street. Water from the river reached almost to the second floor so far as can be seen by the black mark left on the house. Picture was taken after the water had receded approximately four feet.

Water Falls 13 Hours Into Duryea Pits No Danger Imminent As Pumps Gain Control

The rain-swollen Lackawanna River posed a major threat for Wyoming Valley mining operations yesterday when it broke through a dike in Duryea to dump 200,000 gallons of water a minute into No. 10 Tunnel for 13 hours before State-installed pumps at Twin Shafts were able to overcome the danger.

The unprecedented volume of water to be released into a mine locally raised the level of a six-mile long and two-mile wide underground lake from a 300-foot depth to 375 feet before pumping operations started to keep up with the river flow. Kohco-George Coal Company working a urea and were similarly flooded in the spring of 1936.

State mine officials in the area yesterday described the Lackawanna River as having more water than he ever saw in it before. The official, William W. Everett, vice president of operations for Glen Alden Corporation, said "definitely something should be done" in the area to protect mines from being flooded. He mentioned a storage dike as one remedy.

Everett and mine executives of other firms were in agreement with a Department of Mines official that water was receding in the danger area last night. The recession began about 3 yesterday afternoon. The break occurred yesterday morning at 2.

Stroudsburg Hospital Isolated

In Stroudsburg, there were nine dead and possibly 20 others missing. The community's principal roads and bridges were washed away or under three to four feet of water. The water supply for drinking purposes was cut off. The principal hospital in the area was isolated.

Stroudsburg Hospital Isolated

In New Jersey, 30 eastern New York and Rhode Island some vulnerable towns were isolated. The known dead:

Pennsylvania—37—32 drowned, 2 traffic, 2 electrocuted.

Massachusetts—10—7 drowned, 1 traffic, 2 electrocuted.

Virginia—1 drowned.

Rhode Island—1 drowned.

New York—1 drowned.

New Jersey—1 drowned.

Twenty-five others were reported missing—20 in Pennsylvania, three in New Jersey and one in Virginia. Floods obscured bodies over the affected areas reported awesome scenes of destruction and heroic rescue operations.

From Easton to Stroudsburg, a distance of 20 miles, a total of 20 cars were parked in the street. Traffic was washed away. It is believed that no one was killed in my life." one pilot reported in talking about conditions in Wisconsin. "It looked like someone had taken automobiles and thrown them at us another."

The Hartford, Conn., Weather Bureau warned the Connecticut River would crest above flood stage sometime today threatening heavily settled Holyoke and Springfield in western Massachusetts and Hartford and Middletown, Conn.

Basic Wage to Be \$28.32

The new agreement was reported to call for an additional 10-cent hourly increase effective next April 1. This would make the basic \$20.25 per day.

Other features of the new contract, as reported by the United Mine Workers' newspaper, provide: Time and a half for all Saturday work, double time for Sunday work, and a second week of vacation with \$140 vacation pay.

Miners seldom work on Saturdays and Sundays. At present they get premium pay rates for Saturday or Sunday work only if they are working on five days of work. The present contract calls for one week of vacation with \$100 vacation pay.

Treasury Position

Washington, Aug. 19 (AP)—Cash position of the Treasury today: Balance, \$5,266,114,796.88.

100 Duryea Area Families Routed by Flood

Damage totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to one borough official, resulted last night in 100 families being routed by flood.

Only a few feet of a retaining wall remain standing after the river ate behind the wall and washed away the Koytek lawn. Rubble from the wall is seen at lower left.

Plane Crash Takes 7 Lives

Hawthorne, N.Y., Aug. 19 (AP)—An Air Force training plane crashed today in the fiery crash of an Air Force training plane into a barn in Hawthorne, N.Y., northeast of here.

Private L. Col. George Stallings of Hawthorne Naval Air Station Depot reported seven bodies were found when rescuers were able to enter the charred wreckage five hours after the crash.

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Continuing flood strikes in machine shops and elsewhere in the coal industry have slowed the work force so that now the Army and that he would forfeit his job, or about half the number required to produce substantially the same amount of coal only five years ago.

Family of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Koytek, 33 Watt Street, Duryea, was evacuated and all furnishings were removed yesterday when the swollen Lackawanna River lapped at foundation of the home shown above.

More than 100 families evacuated from their homes last Thursday night remained with friends and relatives last night until stagnant pool of water can be drained and muck cleaned from their properties.

Stories of unselfish aid were prevalent yesterday. John Koytek, 33, a resident of Alabama who came to visit his mother at 325 Sweetland Street, took approximately 100 persons to dry land, using a road from his mother's garage. Koytek used an outdoor motor unit until all forced him to row the flood victims to safety.

Koytek had just removed Mr. and Mrs. William Scherrer, their four children and Scherrer's mother from a six-room home on Lonehill Road as 3 a. m. when the house was washed away.

Patrolman Robert Finnelly of Duryea, Police gave an excellent account last night of the collapse of the bridge. The bridge was washed away during the peak of the river's flood. Finnelly said a mass of debris from Old Forge hit the steel bridge with force, stood through the dike at No. 10 tunnel and pushed it down river. After the bridge washed out, water broke through the dike at No. 10 tunnel and entered the mines.

A one-eighth mile of new pavement was washed out. Last night stated: "More than 100 families have been forced to evacuate their homes and both public and private property damaged have been estimated to the extent of hundreds of thousands of dollars. . . . The present flood condition in said area has constituted a menace to the public health and welfare and a state of emergency now exists."

Continuing the receding conditions "that a prompt and urgent request be directed to the proper officials of both our state and federal government urging the taking of immediate action to furnish such financial aid or other assistance as may be possible to alleviate the widespread emergency conditions within the borough of Duryea and to assist the repairing of the formal damaged properties."



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Private L. Col. George Stallings of Hawthorne Naval Air Station Depot reported seven bodies were found when rescuers were able to enter the charred wreckage five hours after the crash.

The plane crashed into a barn, and the wreckage was found in the barn. The plane was a C-47, and it was carrying 10 people. The crash occurred at approximately 10:30 p.m. on August 19.

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

An Independent Newspaper for All the People

Week's TV Programs In Colorgrave Section; Complete Radio—Page 16 of The Society Section

THE WEATHER U. S. Weather Bureau Forecast Philadelphia and vicinity: Mostly sunny and continued hot today with an expected high about 90 degrees. COMPLETE WEATHER DATA ON PAGE 1

Daily Circulation: Daily, 428,131; Sunday, 1,112,062.

127th Year

SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 21, 1955

WFIL-540 KC • WFIL-TV CH. 6

FIFTEEN CENTS

Pocono Flood Deaths May Hit 85, 4 Are Swept Away at One Camp



A soldier using a walkie-talkie and a civilian telephone to search for flood victims in the Stroudsburg area. The bridge is one of those connecting Stroudsburg and Cox Stroudsburg which were wrecked by swollen Brodhead Creek. A truck lies in water.

Eight-State Toll Climbs to 130; New Disasters Hit New England

Eight flood-ravaged northeastern States, listing 130 persons killed, reported these conditions:

PENNSYLVANIA—60 known dead in Pocono resort area, 25 others reported missing as Camp Davis was inundated. Deaths toll now is 74 in State, total still unknown along wide swath of destruction. Thousands homeless. Many towns in valley ruins. Utilities out. Scranton and Tamaqua hard hit.

NEW JERSEY—Five dead, Governor declares State has suffered "a catastrophe," and appeals for Federal aid. Scores of communities stricken. Thousands evacuated. Water routes 1000 in Trenton.

CONNECTICUT—30 dead. Damage estimated in billions. State of emergency declared, with hundreds of thousands of people faced with major health hazards.

Massachusetts—15 dead, several missing. Statewide cleanup begins. Emergency kitchens set up to feed thousands of homeless.

Rhode Island—One dead. Emergency declared. Blackstone River floods Woonsocket, State's third largest city of 50,000 population.

Virginia—Three dead, 150 families driven from homes. But crisis over. Water recedes.

Maryland—Overflowing Potomac floods Point of Rocks, forcing evacuation of 10 families.

New York—Four dead. Thousands return to flood-ridden homes. Port Jervis a disaster area.

Explosions, Broken Dams Add to Woes

HARTFORD, Conn., Aug. 20 (UP)—New disasters struck today in three New England States where more than 70 persons have died in floods.

Explosions, landslides, bucking tractors and explosions wrought new havoc in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island as damage was estimated in millions.

Thousands of families were being driven from homes without food and water or safe for children.

MAJOR DISASTER AREAS President Eisenhower interrupted his Colorado vacation to devote time to the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and South Carolina as major disaster areas.

Red Cross announced a national list of those to be.

Two dams burst. The two-day torrential rainstorm in the Northeast was accompanied by the dying Hurricane Diane left flooded creeks and rivers overflowing over countryside.

Mindszenty Seen 'Seriously Ill'

VIENNA, Aug. 20 (AP)—An unannounced report by a traveler from Budapest said today that Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty was seriously ill.

He said the Cardinal received a severe stroke last week. He said he feared, clearly, but his life still was in danger.

Humany recently announced the release from prison of the 63-year-old prelate "because of age and the bad state of his health."

'There Were About 40 of Us,' Mother Tells of Fears, Prayers at Camp Davis

This is the dramatic story of the disaster of Camp Davis in the Poconos. It was told to Edward J. Hulse, Inquirer reporter, by Mrs. Jennie Johnson, 48-year-old Jersey City housewife, from her bed in Monroe County General Hospital.

By MRS. JENNIE JOHNSON Copyright, 1955, The Philadelphia Inquirer EART STROUDSBURG, Pa., Aug. 20.

There were about 40 of us. Most were children, including my daughter, Nancy, 14, and my two boys, Roy, 14, and David, 10. We were spending a five-week vacation at Camp Davis.

Just about sunset Thursday we took a walk down to Brodhead Creek to see if the water was rising. It was rushing past but almost looked pretty. At the time we didn't think there was anything to worry about.

We returned to our bungalow and sat around for about half an hour. We were talking and the children began playing games.

Suddenly it happened. A push of water hit the bungalow and started to rip it apart. Furniture was being upended by the water as we tried to seek safety in the big winter house. All of the other people at the camp crowded into the place.

First we gathered on the first floor. Water entered the house. We climbed to the second. The water got higher. And finally we were forced into the attic.

It was dark. No dark. The children were all screaming, screaming and crying. Most of them were hysterical. They kept getting a little worse all the time, for about a half hour. Then the roof just opened up.

The house was split in two. Just as if somebody had taken

Raging Tide Is Slowly Subsiding

Other still missing. That number of bodies was recovered today in a four-mile stretch of the river south of the camp. Most of the bodies were listed as survivors. Ten others were still missing and presumed dead.

Six other residents of Camp Davis, who left the camp after the flood, were reported missing. Scores of buildings were located in nearby Pine Bluffs. The campers are being fed and given water to visit friends.

One survivor of the camp, who was rescued after being swept four miles downstream, said everything in it was swept away. The pilot of a plane which flew over the camp

Stay Away From Flood. State police and relief officials were urged to advise motorists not to visit communities stricken by flood disasters, where thousands of people are being crowded around the clock to rebuild damaged homes and restore public utilities.

The appeal was directed especially to vacation travelers. Officials warned that motorists going into the stricken areas face the danger of water-filled holes on highways and rock slides that may isolate them in long periods.

Health conditions also pose a threat to visitors, it was pointed out.

Princess Hohenlohe Linked to Probe Of Schofield's Income and Assets

Princess Hohenlohe, who is believed to be the daughter of the late Emperor of Austria, is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for alleged income tax evasion. The investigation is being conducted by Special Agent in Charge James J. Schofield, who is believed to be the father of the princess.

Princess Hohenlohe is believed to be the daughter of the late Emperor of Austria, who died in 1918. She is believed to be the daughter of the late Emperor of Austria, who died in 1918.

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Jester Puzzle 18 Stumps Entrants

Solution of last week's puzzle, explanation of more difficult ones and contest rules on Page 31.

Little Jester Puzzle No. 18, published last Sunday, proved too tough for the thousands of contestants who tried to solve it, but that fact may turn into a windfall for one or more fans who tackle the latest in the series.

In accordance with the rules, the \$1000 in prize money offered for a correct solution to last week's puzzle will be added to a like sum assigned for the winner of winners of Little Jester Puzzle No. 19, which appears in today's edition of The Inquirer.

And don't forget, in going after that doubled prize of \$2000 you may also win yourself a 10 percent bonus simply by passing your entry on the back of a postcard or on the back surface of an envelope the same size as a postcard.

Another thing to keep in mind is to get these entries in early. Each week thousands of Little Jester contest entries arrive too late to be eligible for judging. Don't let that happen to yours! Mail early!

It's a good idea, too, in ramming through the official rules before sending in your entries. Any resident of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia may participate in the fun of going after that big new \$2000 prize, except residents of the Inquirer and their families.

Mail your solutions to Little Jester Puzzle No. 19, P. O. Box 7927, Philadelphia 1, Pa. Entries must be received at a certain time, but not later than 5 P. M. Wednesday, Aug. 24, 1955.

On WFIL Today

- 11:30 A. M.—Continuation of C & D's
2:00 P. M.—Star Reporter
4:00 P. M.—Eater
9:00 P. M.—Paul Harvey
11:10 P. M.—Muno You Want
WFLY—CHANNEL 5
12:30 P. M.—Ould Parishes
3:00 P. M.—Super Circus
4:00 P. M.—Bridal Bill
4:10 P. M.—Oscar Peterson Theatre
10:30 P. M.—Diamond Ties
Murder Je My Business

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER LITTLE JESTER PUZZLE #19

Word puzzle grid with letters E, T, M, A, D, C, P, G, T, R, I, N, S, I, X, M, E, A, L, T, A, I, T, R, T, A, T, E, I, G, H, T

YOUR NAME: ADDRESS: CITY & ZONE: STATE: PHONE NO: Mail to "Little Jester" Puzzle #19, P. O. Box 7927, Philadelphia 1, Pa. Entries must be received at a certain time, but not later than 5 P. M. Wednesday, August 24, 1955. PLEASE START HOME DELIVERY OF THE INQUIRER C Daily and Sunday E Sunday

- CLUES ACROSS 1. A nuisance. 2. Many a great... has played an important part in history. 3. He's entitled to our respect, of course. 4. Handled over money. 5. A dealer might give you a responsible job for love. 6. Famous ones may sometimes imitate a schoolboy. 7. Not disposed to do any work. 8. French word for "like" a police are usually quite efficient. 9. To work in... is undoubtedly very trying. 10. It's generally strong. 11. A dealer might give you a fair idea of the value. 12. One guilty of treason. 13. A French word for "like" a police are usually quite efficient. 14. To work in... is undoubtedly very trying. 15. A nuisance. 16. Many a great... has played an important part in history. 17. He's entitled to our respect, of course. 18. Handled over money. 19. A dealer might give you a responsible job for love. 20. Famous ones may sometimes imitate a schoolboy. 21. Not disposed to do any work. 22. French word for "like" a police are usually quite efficient. 23. 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The Philadelphia Inquirer

PUBLIC LEDGER

An Independent Newspaper for All the People

EAGLES vs. BEARS
FRIDAY, AUGUST 26
MUNICIPAL STADIUM

VOL. 253, NO. 52

SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 21, 1955

SECTION B

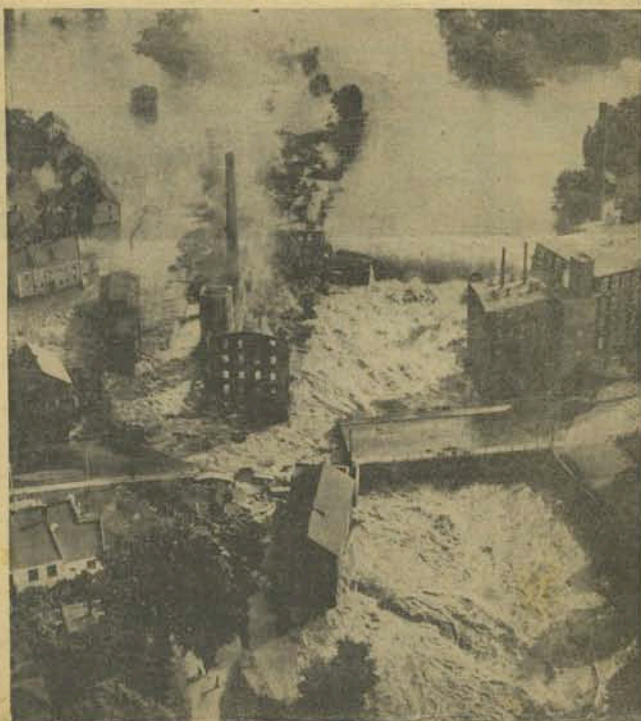
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FIFTEEN CENTS

Havoc in Wake of the Raging Floods



Flood waters rushing out of the hills threatened to slam into this church at Monson, Mass. At the last moment, however, they swerved (arrow) and went around, sparing the church.



Smoke still rises from the ruins of the five-story plant of the Metal Sellers Corp., Putnam, Conn., which was destroyed by fire as flood waters prevented firemen from getting near the building.



The Dauntless Lane Apartments at Hartford, Conn., live up to their name as they stay on their foundations despite 10 feet of flood waters. Several hundred tenants were evacuated, however.



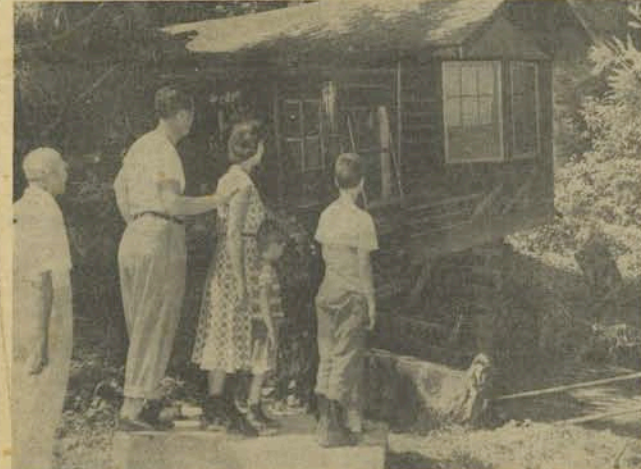
The fury with which flood struck Moosic, south of Scranton, is evident from the way this house was torn apart and swept from its foundations.



National Guardsmen move into flood-ravaged East Stroudsburg, Pa. The rocks in the foreground were tumbled through the rail trestle by roaring Brodhead Creek, which residents said rose 25 to 30 feet "in 15 minutes."



Mrs. Margaret Simpson, 18, who gave birth to a child in the East Stroudsburg Hospital, from a Navy helicopter after being flown with her mother from a car.



The John McDonnell, of 272 Wingohocking st., came to see if their cottage on Neshaminy at Lanesboro Terrace was safe—found it like this.

Angry Waters' Battering Might Lashes Canadensis, Other Pocono Resort Towns



SUMMER HOMES SMASHED—Three pleasant summer homes in Canadensis were raked by turbulent flood waters of Broodhead Creek. After the waters receded the owners found their homes uprooted from foundations and encased in a pile of rocks, trees and other debris. In center of picture is retaining wall erected to enclose the creek.



FAR FROM ORIGINAL LOCATION—The Valance Photo Studio, Canadensis, was lifted from its foundations in the heart of the town business district and deposited, amid a sea of debris, at a point 100 yards from its original location. As the height of the flood in that area water rose to a depth of over five feet.



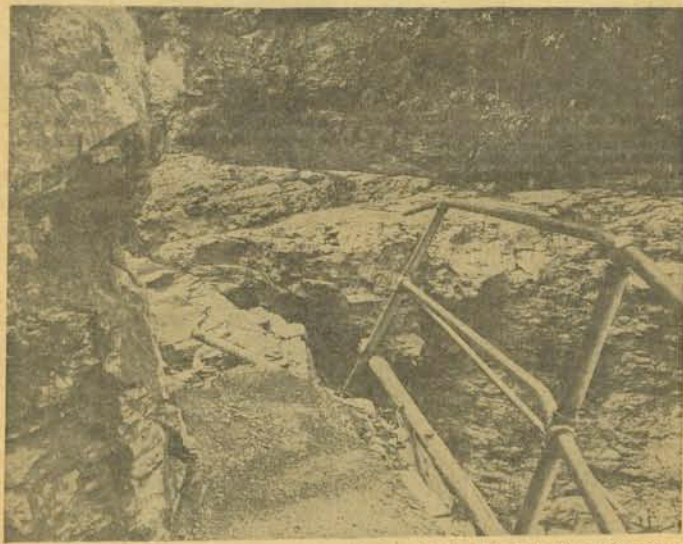
SHATTERED SUMMER HOME—Nearly every home in Canadensis received a battering from the flash floods in that area. But this home, surrounded by huge piles of debris, received one of the severest hammerings. Lifted from its foundations and carried away by swirling flood waters, the home is now high and dry—but visitors will need a bulldozer to get inside.



SECTION OF FALLS ERODED—Many persons are familiar with the beauty of Buck Hill Falls in the Pocono Mountains. But the flash floods in that area changed the face of the scenic pathway. The arrows point to the original spot where the water began its descent.



TYPICAL SCENE IN CANADENSIS—This is one of many homes in Canadensis which fell prey to angry flood waters of Broodhead Creek. This home, owned by Joseph Simons, was lifted off its foundations and carried at least 75 yards away. Rocks and trees combined to splinter the roof and ceiling.



RAILING SHATTERED—This protective guard railing is a familiar spot to persons who have witnessed the beauty of Buck Hill Falls. Flash floods uprooted the sturdy iron railing, along with the rocky ledge on the left of the picture, and hurled parts of the railing and ledge into the chasm below. The path once led to the "upper" falls.



REMAINS OF A BUSINESS DISTRICT—Sheared off stores and battered business places give graphic evidence of the fury of flood waters which rumbled through the heart of the Canadensis business district. The picture shows the rear of the business section — a vast difference from its former orderliness.



















LOST

From Page A1

Stroudsburg Fire Department and others involved with rescue and clean-up efforts gathered recently to talk about the flood and its aftermath.

Marvin E. Abel was chief of the department at the time. When Brodhead Creek finally stopped rising at about 4 a.m. that Aug. 19, his job had only just begun. Abel, who also served with the Civil Defense, two years later would sit down and write five pages of details about what it was like. It turned into a harrowing and gruesome report of death, destruction and courage.

For Abel, now 93, talking about the flood is still difficult.

"We just lost so much," he said. "It's still a little hard to take."

The sight of the raging water was unforgettable, but another thing many of the rescue crew remember is the sound.

"It was a horrible rumble," said William Harris, 73. "It was coming from hearing cars, trees, anything solid rumbling along the pavement under the water."

What also lingers in their minds still is the pure stench of death that engulfed the community after the flood, a combination of corpses, mud and overturned earth.

"I always thought I was a macho guy," John Manson, 70, said. "Until I sat down and tried to eat after finding bodies after the flood. I couldn't eat for a couple days after that."

"Once you smell it, you never forget it," Harris said of his experiences with Civil Defense during the clean-up. "You take a rest for some fresh air, then you go back out into it and you get sick again."

Jim Chase, 73, worked the "body detail," which toured the borough to pick up corpses.

"There was one person whose body was stuck in the tree and so (punished) by the water, when I tried to pull it out of the tree, (the body) split in two," he said. "I never forgot that."

William LaBar, 79, signed up as a firefighter after helping with the rescue and clean-up effort. It took some people longer than others to recover psychologically, he said.

"It wasn't like today, where there are people to talk to," he said. "A lot of people ended up having psychological problems because of what they saw. It wasn't pretty."

But it wasn't all tragedy. With

more than 450 people rescued from the flood waters, some stories are bound to be humorous.

"There was one woman I got from up in a tree who was wearing every piece of jewelry she owned," Chase said. "She was still alive, up in the tree just as pretty as she could be. I guess she thought if she was going to die, she might as well die with her jewelry."

The most critical moment, many of the men said, was when the State Bridge connecting East Stroudsburg and Stroudsburg split in two, with half of it floating away at about 10:45 p.m.

The bridge not only connect-

ed the boroughs for cars and trucks, but carried many utilities as well. Electric, gas and phone lines all ran across the bridge and were broken when the bridge fell, sending East Stroudsburg back to the Dark Ages for more than a week.

"Everything went out then," Ray Poortstra, 88, said. "And it seemed like it was never coming back on."

Ed Flory traveled throughout the borough with his father, Mayor Jesse Flory, the night of the flood. One of the things he remembers is the continuous calling out of names over the radio. Many families were

separated throughout the night and with a lack of communication between the boroughs, every person still alive was asked to check in with authorities. As people reported in, local radio broadcasts would announce the names of survivors over the air.

"That was just eerie," Flory 66, said. "Just hearing all those names all the time."

Also not forgotten is the camaraderie and selflessness that surfaced after the flood.

"Anything anyone wanted wasn't denied them," Abel said. "If someone needed something, there was always someone there to give it to them."

'We just lost so much'

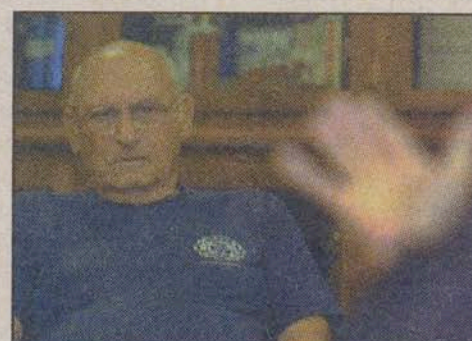
East Stroudsburg rescuers recall painful days of flood, recovery



Marvin E. Abel, 93, was East Stroudsburg Fire Chief during the 1955 flood. As he discusses memories of the flood, he says, 'It's still a little hard to take.'



William Harris, 73, remembers sounds: 'It was a horrible rumble. It was coming from hearing cars, trees, anything solid rumbling along the pavement under the water.'



KEITH R. STEVENSON/Pocono Record photos
William LaBar, 79: 'A lot of people ended up having psychological problems because of what they saw. It wasn't pretty.'

By **MICHAEL SADOWSKI**

Pocono Record Writer

Open any local history book and you can read about the Flood of 1955 that killed 78 people in Monroe County and caused millions of dollars in damage.

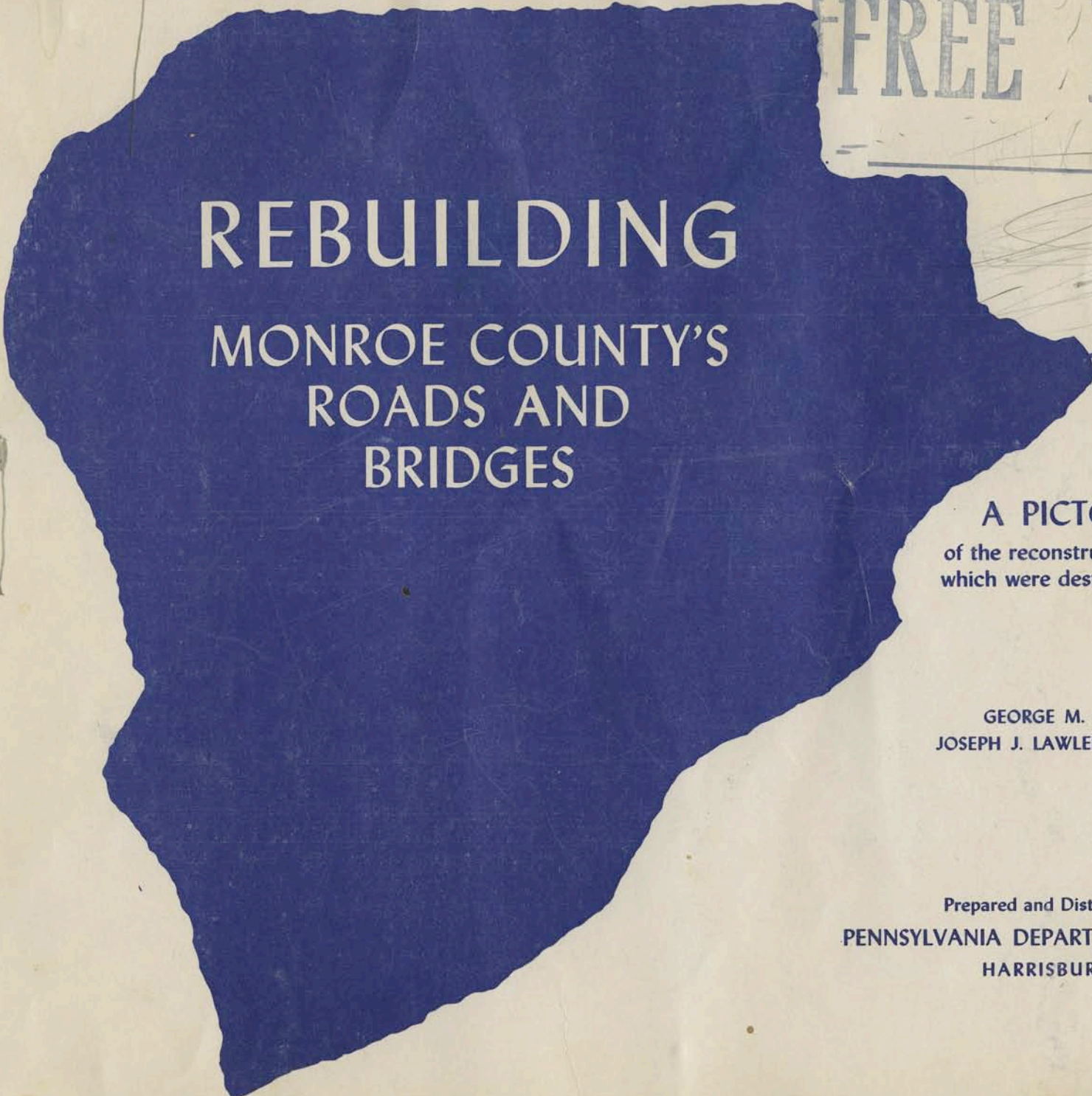
Check any newspaper from the time and you will learn more intricate details of the flood than can fit in a history book.

But you can't fully understand the magnitude of the Poconos' most devastating natural disaster without talking to the people who saw its horrors.

Veteran members of the East

See **LOST**, Page **A8**

FREE ISSUE



REBUILDING
MONROE COUNTY'S
ROADS AND
BRIDGES

A PICTORIAL REPORT
of the reconstruction of highway facilities
which were destroyed by Hurricane Diane

GEORGE M. LEADER, Governor
JOSEPH J. LAWLER, Secretary of Highways

Prepared and Distributed by the
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
HARRISBURG • 1957

INTRODUCTION

THURSDAY—AUGUST 18, 1955—A FATEFUL DAY.

Hurricane Diane struck northeastern Pennsylvania with unprecedented ferocity.

Monroe County bore the brunt of the hurricane and floods which followed.

Bridges which withstood floods of previous years were washed away in the flash of an eye.

Roads, built to withstand the rigors of Pocono winters were uprooted. Landslides, tons of debris and massive boulders and trees blocked the roads. Traffic movement was completely paralyzed on the majority of roads.

Human endurance was stretched to a breaking point as the people of the community awoke to the realization that Diane in a few hours left death, desolation and tragedy in its wake.

FRIDAY—AUGUST 19.

The people of Monroe began the task of rehabilitation.

With flood waters still raging in mountain creeks and with houses destroyed, business establishments buried in heaps of mud, with the dead to be buried and the injured to be cared for, the gigantic task got under way.

Proffers of aid flooded relief headquarters. Money, medicine, food and clothing poured into the region. Volunteers came to offer help from nearby areas which had escaped the fury of the storm.

Frantic parents of children in camps which dotted the countryside rushed to the stricken area. Thousands of curious sightseers clogged the few roads which were passable.

The resources of the State government were quickly mobilized to restore order and to get traffic moving.

Governor George M. Leader at Harrisburg at the height of the storm was in close touch with the crisis, directing mobilization of the Commonwealth's forces.

First to go into action was the Monroe County maintenance force of the Pennsylvania Department of Highways.

Bulldozers, trucks, huge dirt moving equipment concentrated at the maintenance headquarters as the storm was raging. Evacuation and rescue of flood victims went hand in hand with the tremendous job of repairing the flood ravaged roads.

By daylight on August 19, men, material and equipment were being transported into the area and a "round the clock" program was under way.

On Sunday, August 21, Secretary Joseph J. Lawler summoned to the Department's Allentown district headquarters, a group of road contractors. Here plans for temporary bridges were firmed up. Work on these structures began on Monday.

Most of the temporary bridges have now been replaced with permanent structures. Others are in the process of rebuilding for integration into an expanded highway system to better serve this great region.

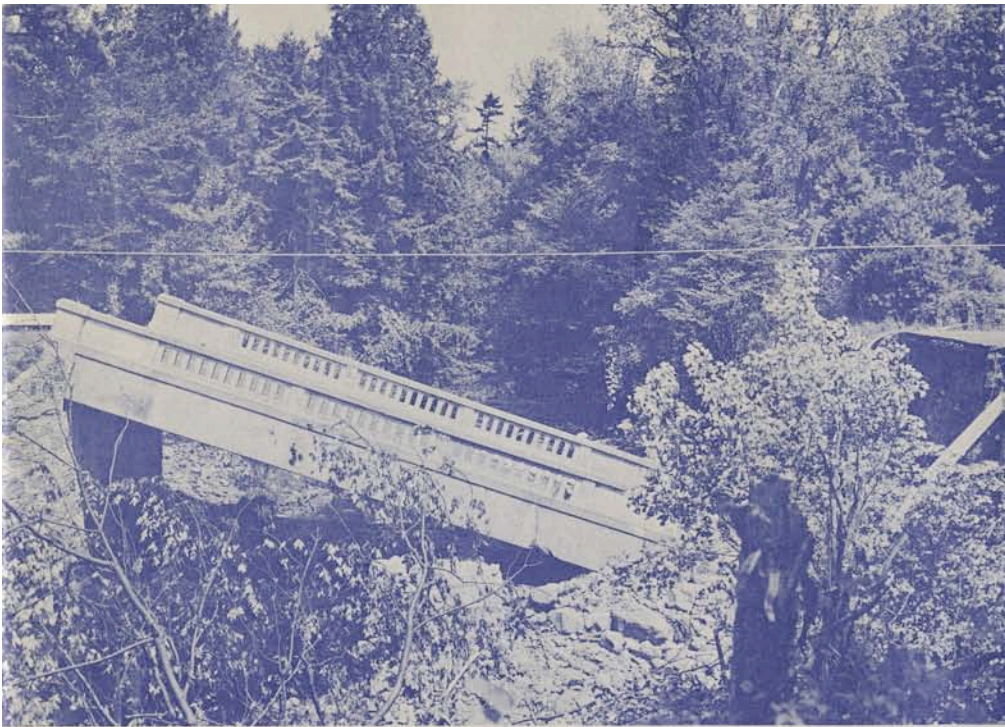
In this brochure the Department presents a selection of photographs, which shows the progress which has been made. In Series A the picture of the scene taken a day or two after Hurricane Diane had spent its fury is shown. In contrast the bridge or road replacement is pictured.

Series B shows photographs of work under way. For this there are no Diane pictures, but in each case there was a bridge or roadway which was destroyed. In this series also are shown a few township projects rebuilt under Act 18-A.

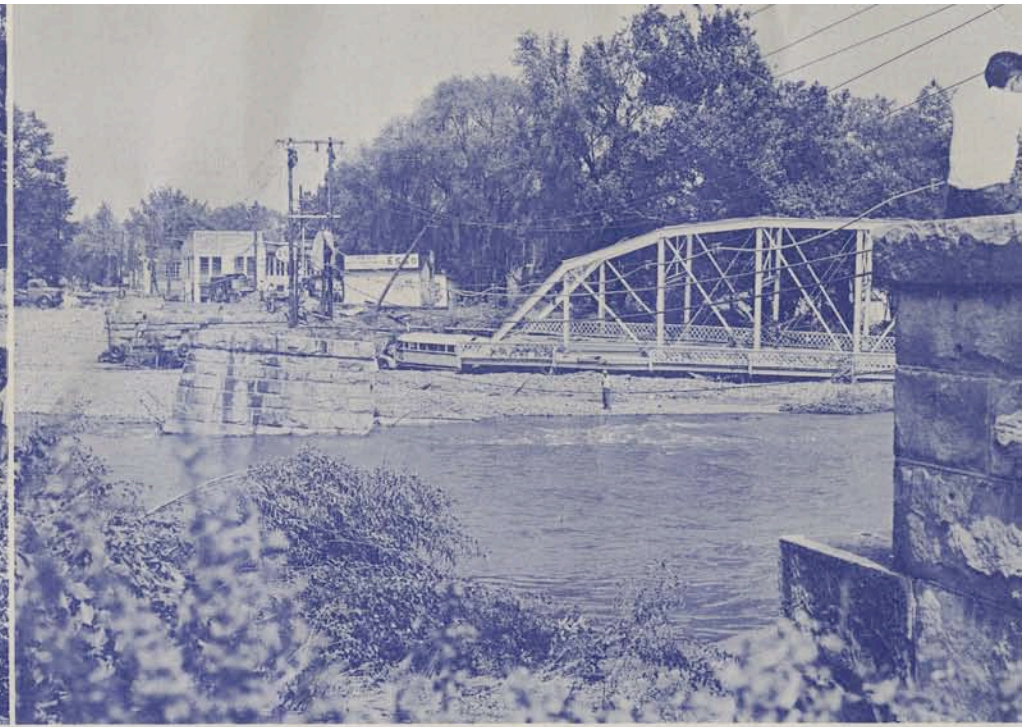
The rebuilding program continues despite shortages of steel and other material. Where complete redesigns are needed they have been made. Where changing stream beds have compelled the Department to find new locations for bridges, this has been done.

As August marks the second anniversary of Hurricane Diane, the beautiful Poconos welcomes the visitor from afar with the hospitality and good cheer for which the region has become famous.

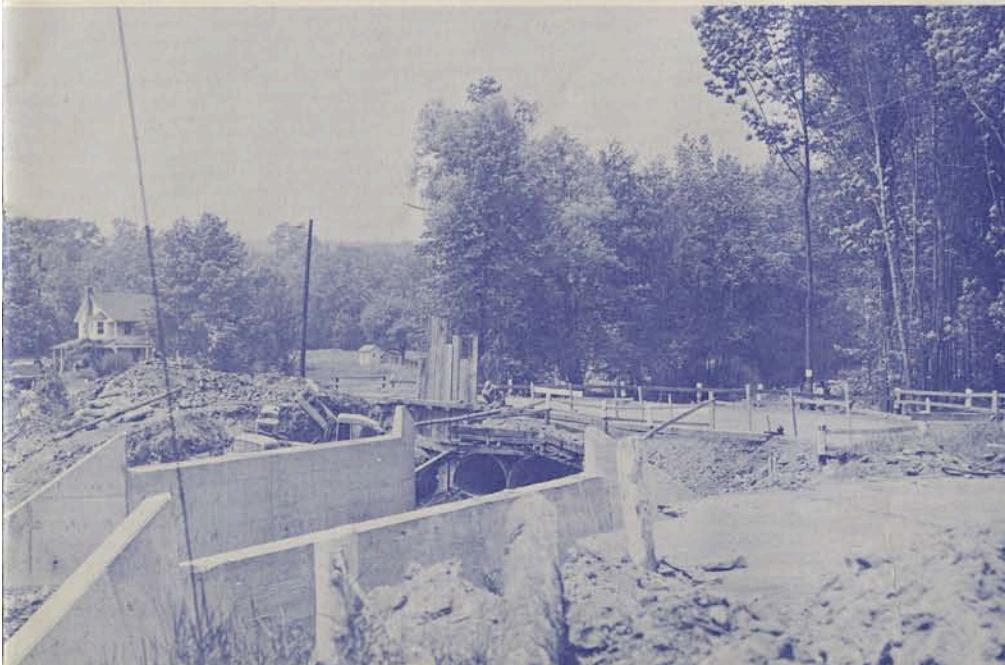
The Department of Highways in presenting this brochure does so in the belief that a pictorial report of the region's comeback is most timely.



SWIFTWATER CREEK, Swiftwater. Route 171.
Steel shortage has delayed completion of 62-foot span I-beam bridge which will replace old 2-span concrete arch.

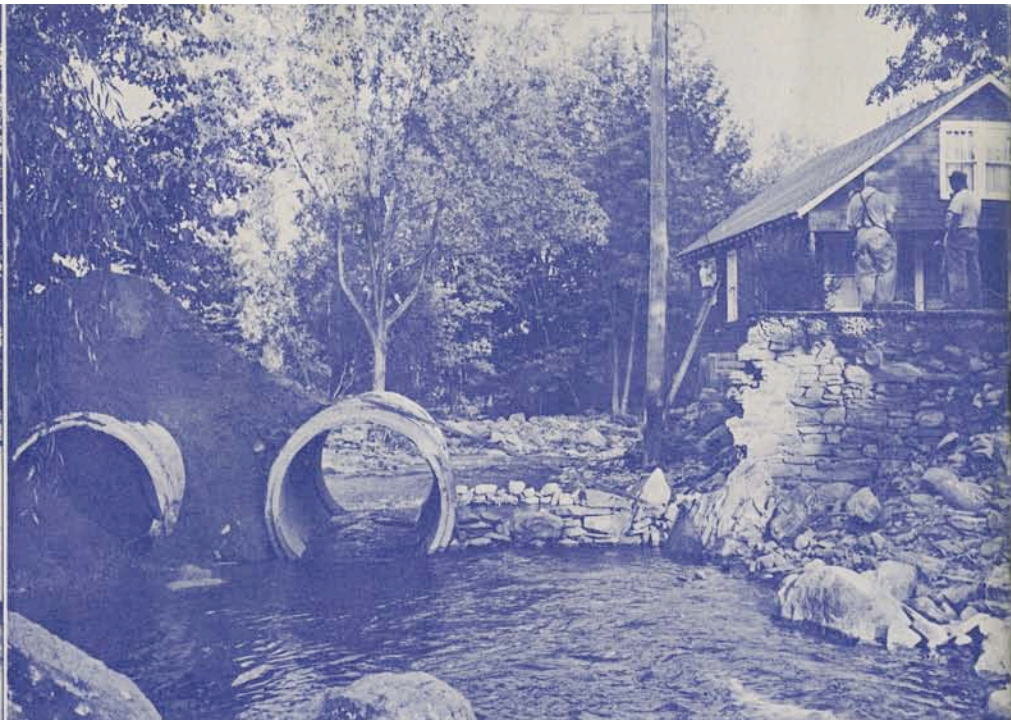


BRODHEAD CREEK, connecting Stroudsburg. Off Traffic Route 611.
Old bridge completely destroyed, replaced by temporary structure shown above, while new modern bridge is being designed.

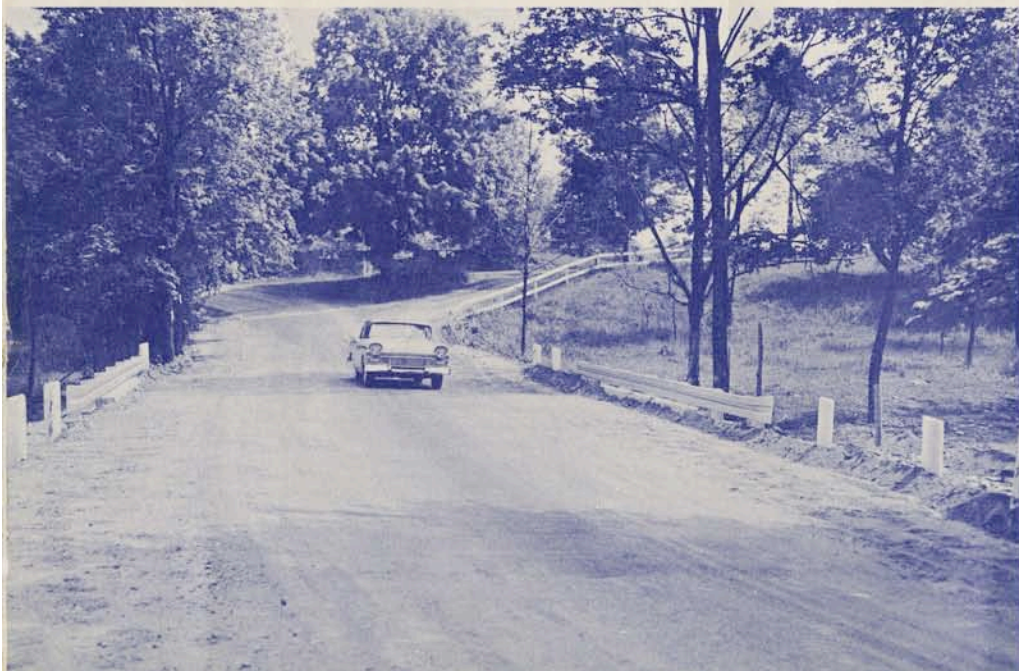


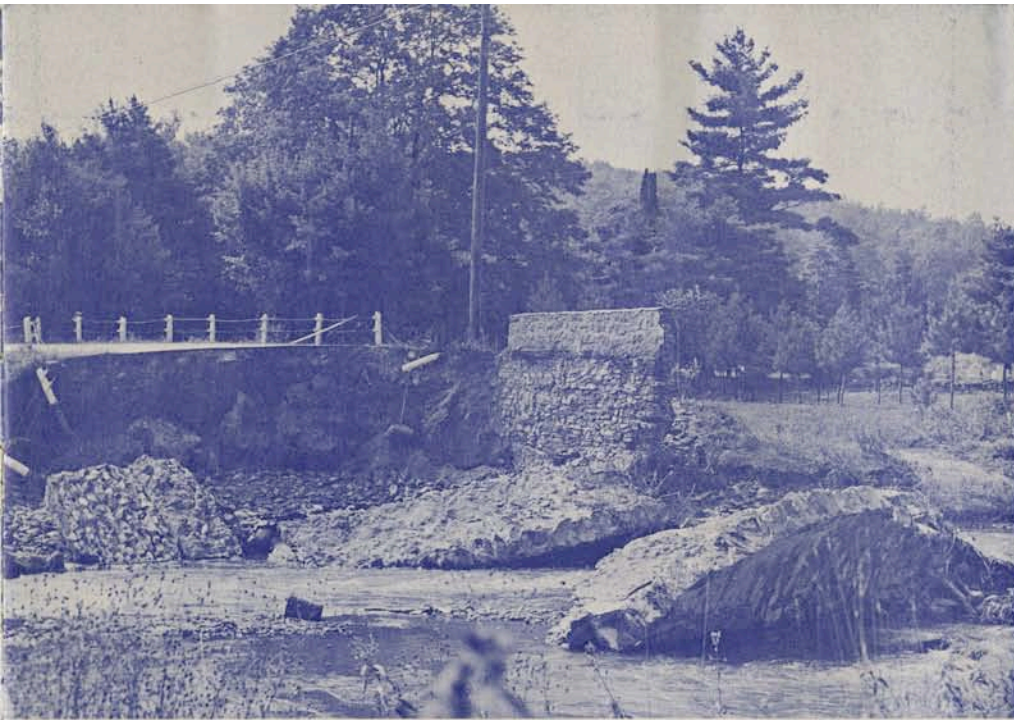


SWIFTWATER CREEK, west of Henryville, Legislative
Route 45025.
Prestressed concrete 54-foot span replaces old bridge here.



RATTLESNAKE CREEK, Mountainhome. Traffic
Route 90.
48-foot masonry arch, replaced by metal plate pipe arch.



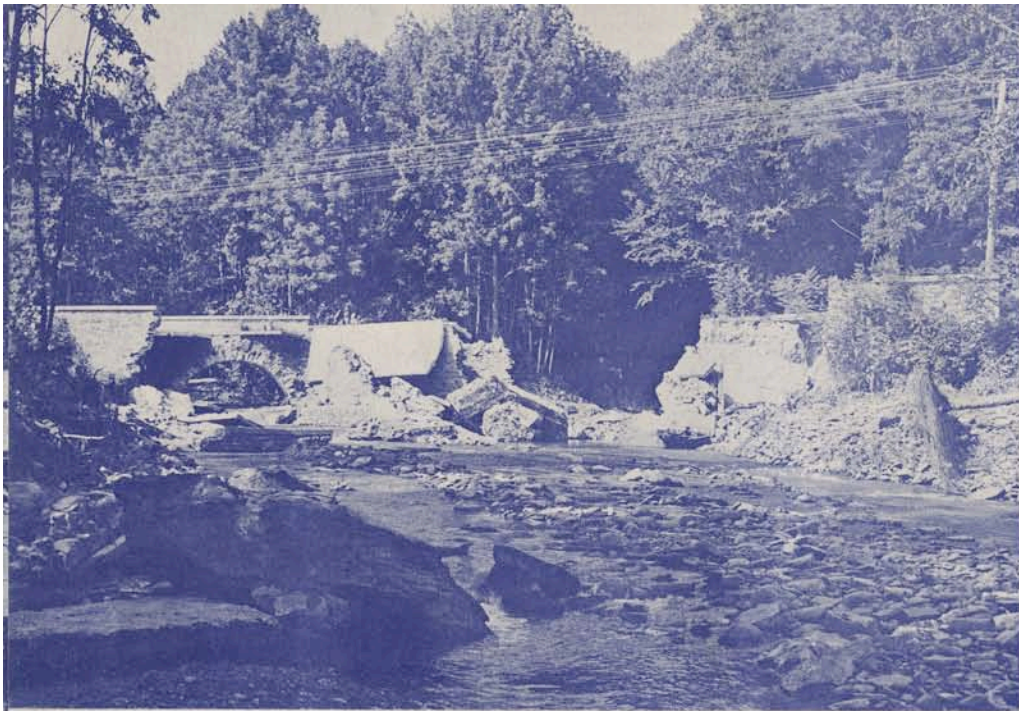


POCONO CREEK, Tannersville. Off Traffic Route 611.
Masonry arch replaced by 60-foot I-beam bridge. Job completed.



MILL CREEK, Mountainhome. Traffic Route 390.
50-foot span replaces old 35-foot I-beam bridge.

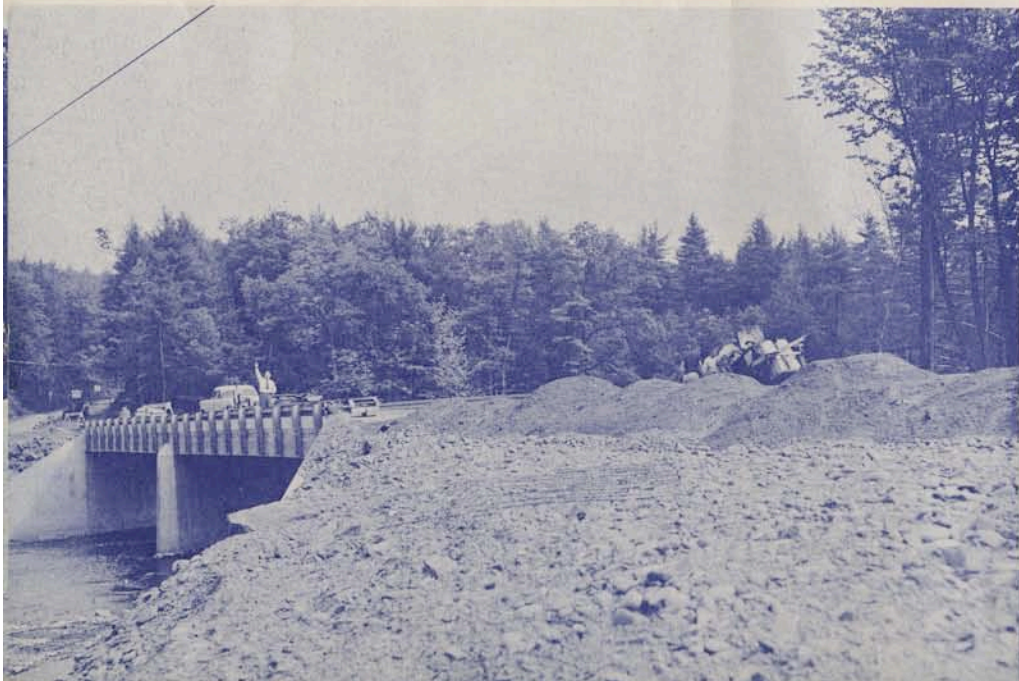


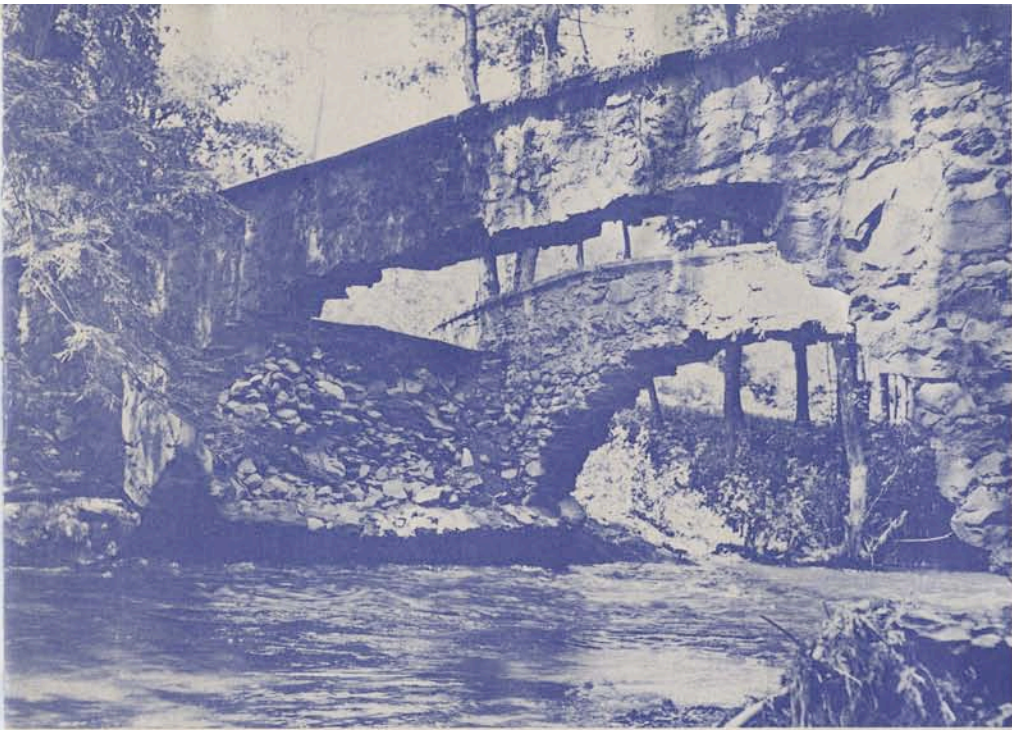


STITES BRIDGE, south of Henryville. Traffic Route 90.
48-foot prestressed concrete bridge replaces 45-foot concrete bridge.
Job completed in July.



BULGERS RUN, east of Tannersville. Traffic Route 611.
11-foot masonry arch replaced by prestressed 22-foot span.



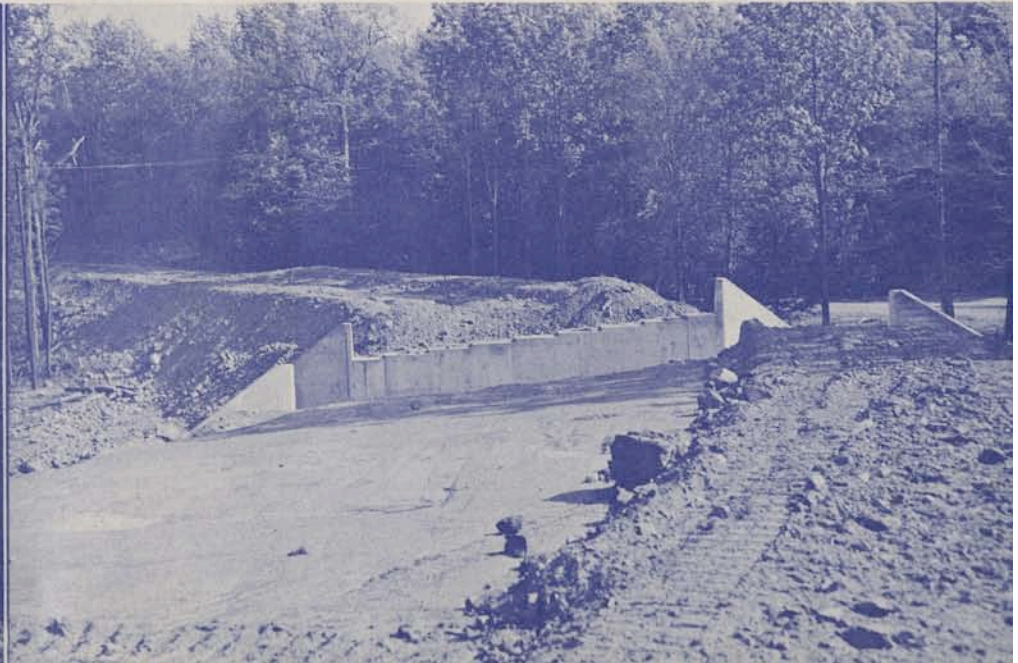


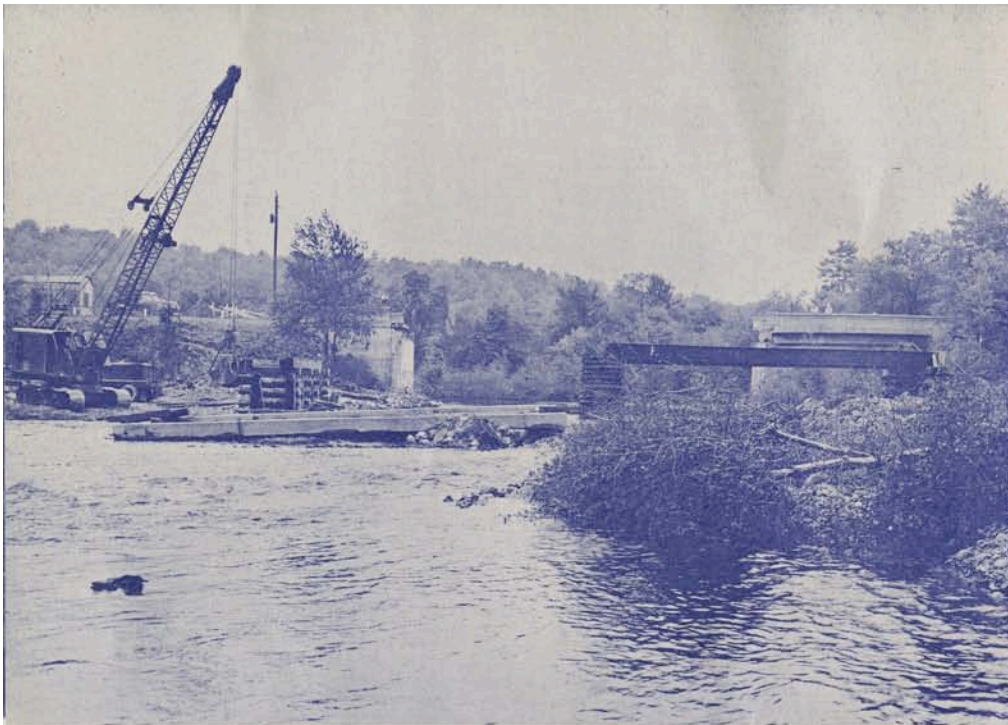
APPENZELL CREEK, north of Snydersville. Legislative Route 45073.

Antiquated 24-foot masonry arch replaced by prestressed concrete beam, making a safer structure and approach.



BUSHKILL CREEK, Buckhill Falls. Off Traffic Route 290.
Lack of steel delays completion of 60-foot span I-beam bridge which will replace 28-foot masonry arch.





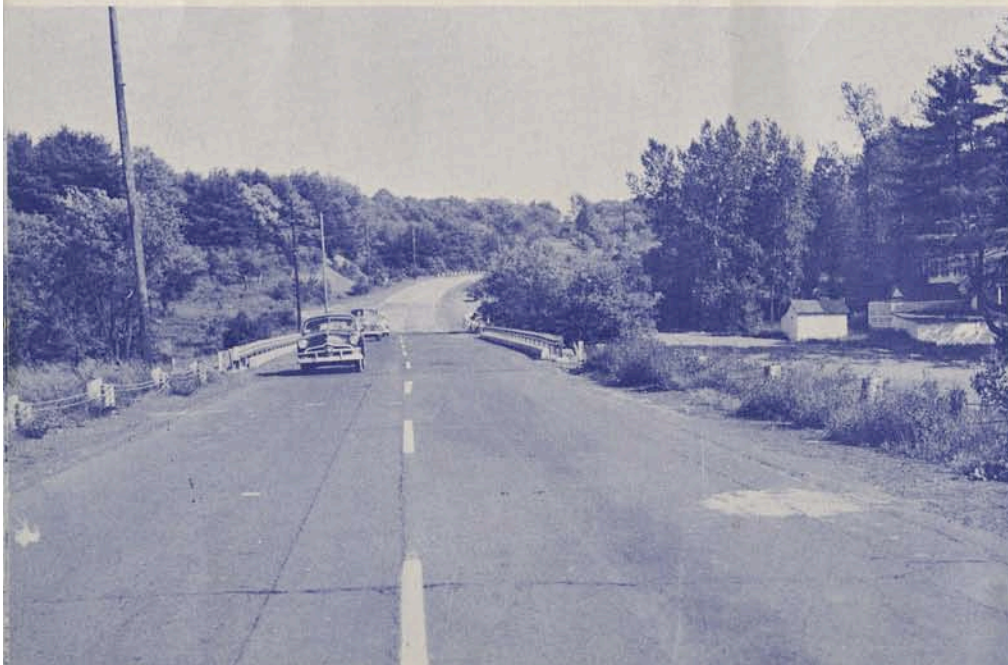
**LITTLE LEHIGH RIVER, Stoddartsville. Traffic
Route 115.**

Two 60-foot span bridge and proper approaches make this replacement
an outstanding job.



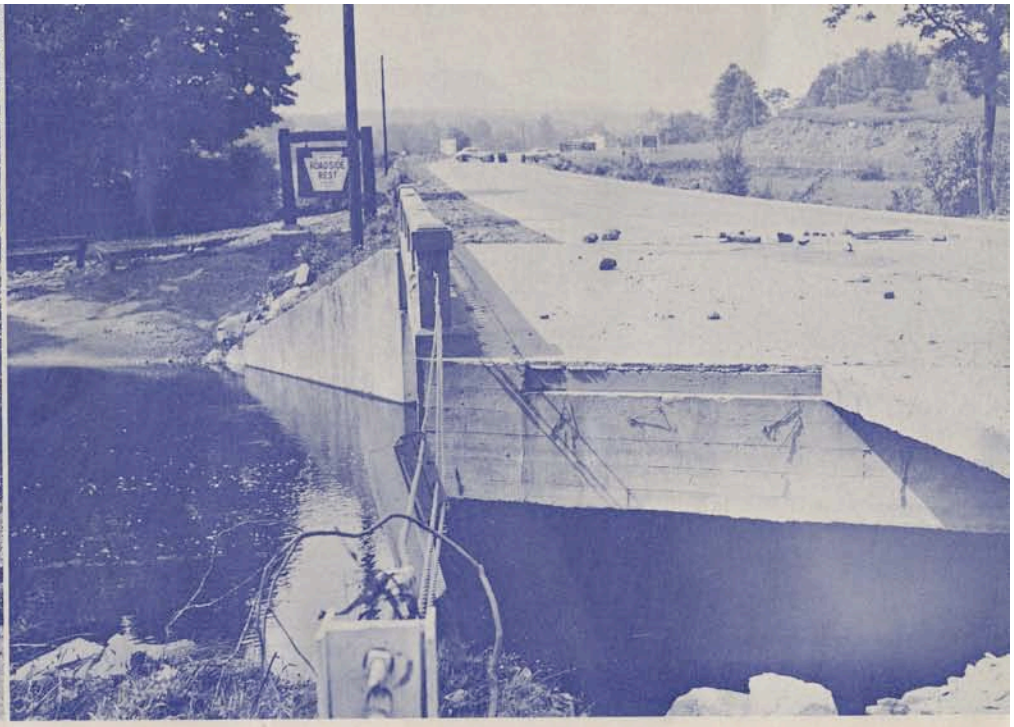
**POCONO CREEK, north of Stroudsburg. Legislative
Route 45019, off Traffic Route 611.**

When this photograph was taken in June the approaches to 62-foot
bridge were being completed.





ANALOMINK CREEK, Henryville. Traffic Route 90.
64-foot span replaces old masonry arch destroyed by raging creek.



POCONO CREEK, north of Bartonville. Traffic Route 611.
Replacement of 45-foot concrete bridge by 64-foot span permits major
improvement of alignment and approaches.

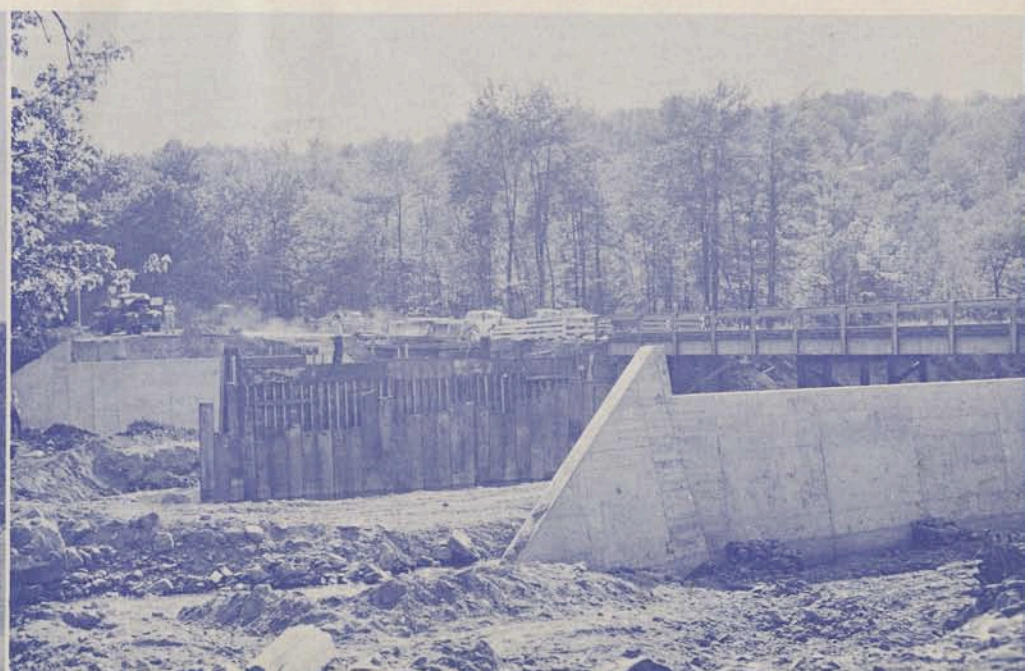


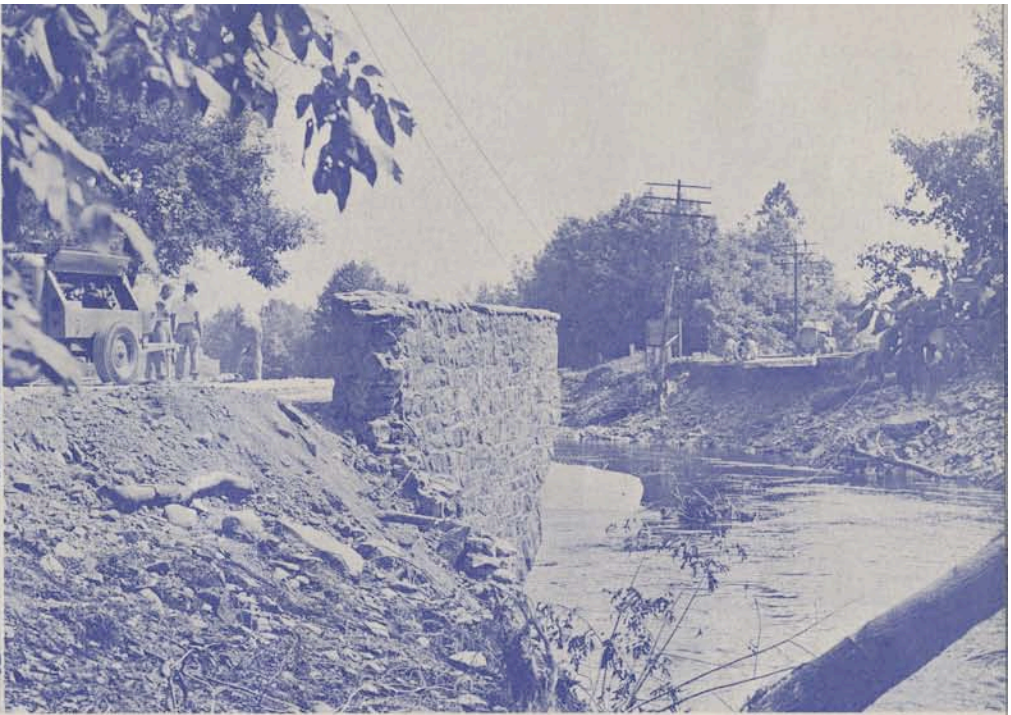


POCONO CREEK, north of Bartonsville. Traffic Route 611.
A 2-span timber bridge on this important route replaced by concrete bridge.



TOBYHANNA CREEK, west of Blakeslee Corners.
Traffic Route 940.
Nearing completion is two 68-foot span concrete bridge replacing old two 48-foot span which was destroyed.

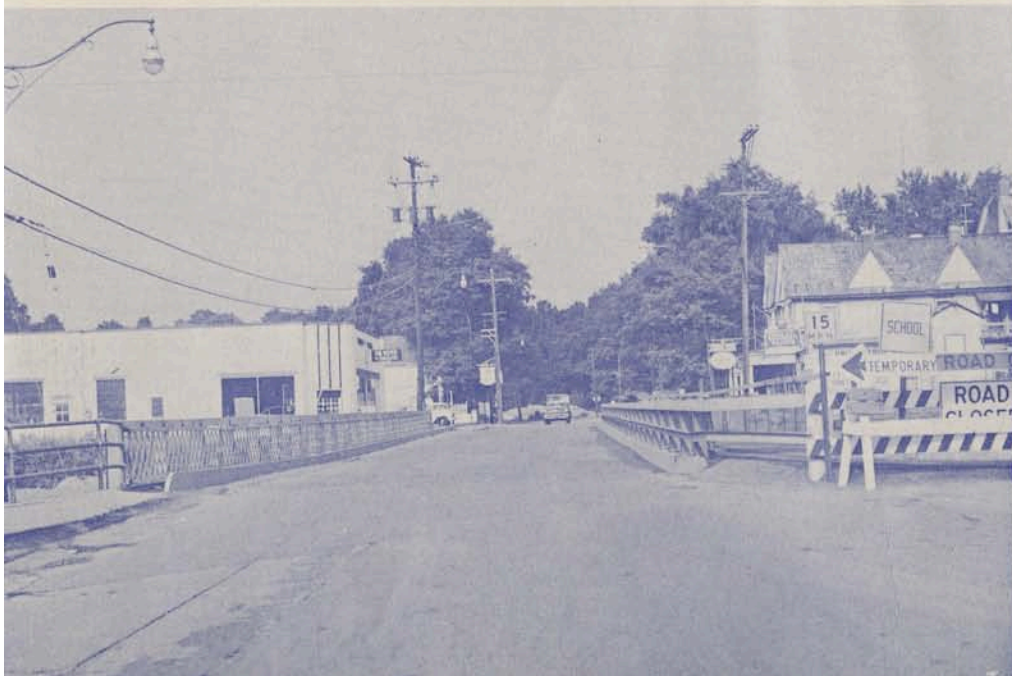


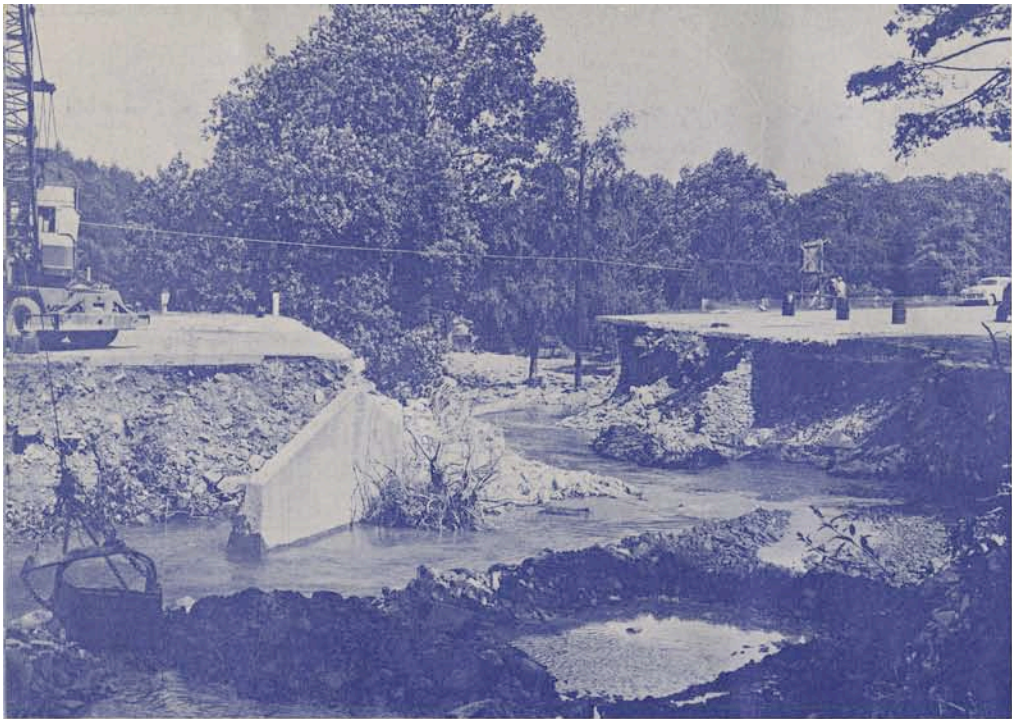


**POCONO CREEK, Main St. in Stroudsburg. Traffic
Route 209.**

Temporary bridge, erected shortly after hurricane, will be replaced
by permanent structure. Now ready for bids.

**POCONO CREEK, west of Bartonsville. Traffic Route 611.
New two 65-foot spans replace old masonry arch destroyed at this
location.**





SWIFTWATER CREEK, Swiftwater. Traffic Route 611.
Final cleanup by contractor brings this important replacement near completion.



BRODHEAD CREEK, Covesville. Traffic Route 290.
Masonry arch being replaced by concrete 50-foot span. This job has been completed and road is in full service.





FOREST HILLS CREEK, Swiftwater. Legislative Route 45034.
24-foot concrete span replaces 15-foot masonry arch.

PARADISE CREEK, Henryville. Legislative Route 45025.
18-foot span replacement for masonry arch.



POCONO CREEK, east of Tannersville. Legislative Route 45024.
Concrete beam span 74 feet to replace concrete bridge.

SHAWNEE CREEK, Shawnee. Legislative Route 45061.
Temporary bridge.

