

N.Y. Times - 4/27/76

Needless Flood Victims

For the fifth time in seven years the Souris River has forced citizens of Minot, N.D., to abandon their homes and shops in fear of a flood. Although the worst of the threat now seems to be over, 12,000 people have had to be evacuated once again from low-lying areas, hardships have been considerable and there is no certainty that the city will not experience, next year or the year after that, the devastation that drowned it out in 1969.

In contrast to the recent frequency of flooding, the river overflowed its banks only three times in the 77 years before 1969. Since that year, farmers upstream have been steadily draining their wetlands in order to increase crop acreage, sending the water coursing into the river. The results of this incredibly short-sighted policy give an instructive demonstration of the value of wetlands in insuring an even distribution of surface waters.

Even if the North Dakota floods were not avoidable, the ensuing damage to people and property certainly is. Government has only to assist the occupants of flood plains to move to higher and safer ground, instead of helping them to resettle exactly where they were after each flight, to rebuild after each disaster.

Like most other river cities, Minot has made itself eligible for Federal flood insurance. But the Government goes on paying out money, the river goes on claiming new victims and an air of terror closes in on the community every time the waters grow swollen with rain. Federal assistance needed to move people out of flood plains altogether might be high to begin with; but once laid out, the funds would not have to be paid over and over again—at exorbitant cost to the taxpayer and agonizing cost to the victims.

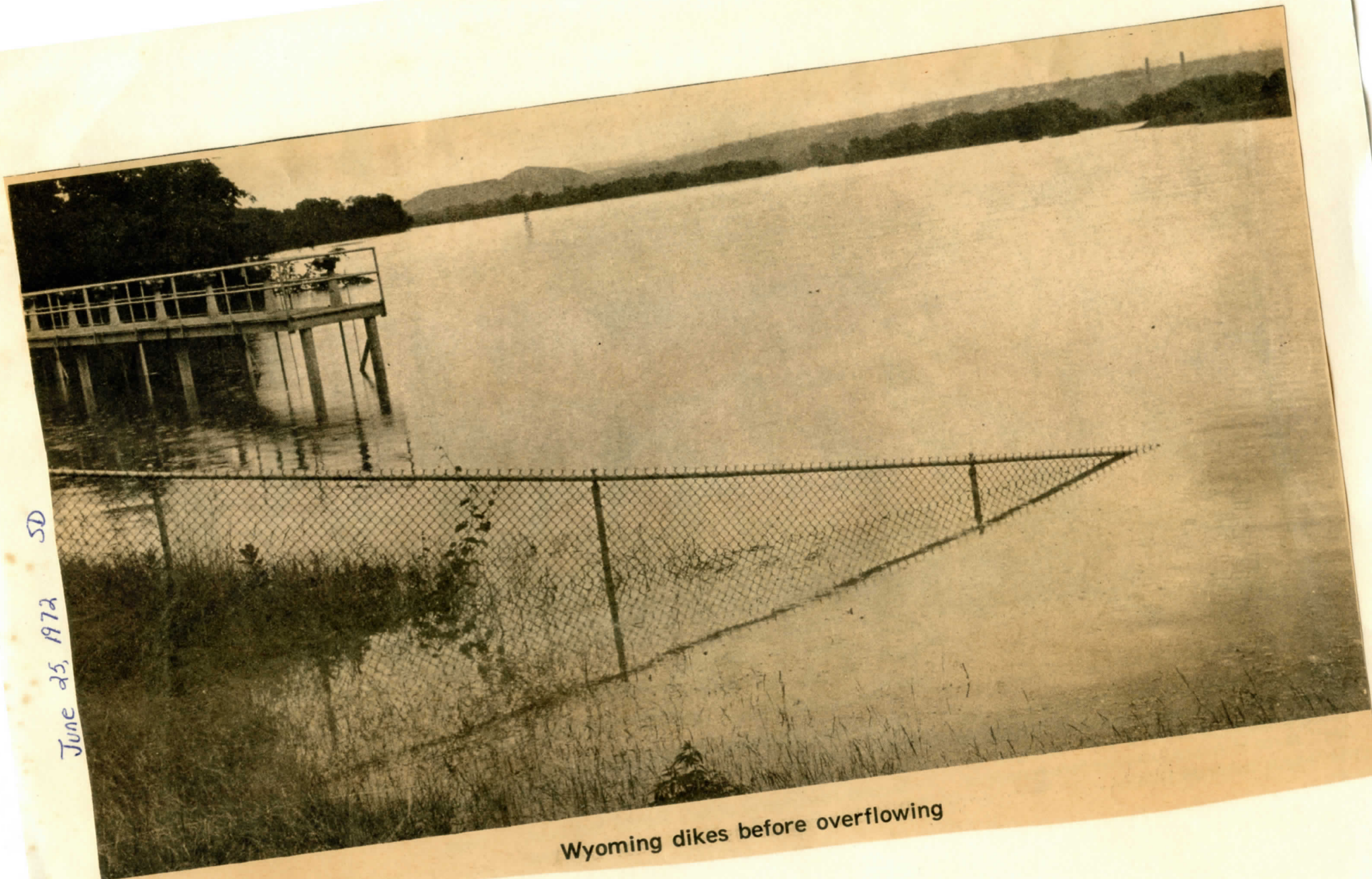
June 25, 1972 SD



West Side Bank, West Pittston

SUNDAY DISPATCH, JUNE 25, 1972

SD
June 25, 1972



Wyoming dikes before overflowing

June 25, 1972 SD



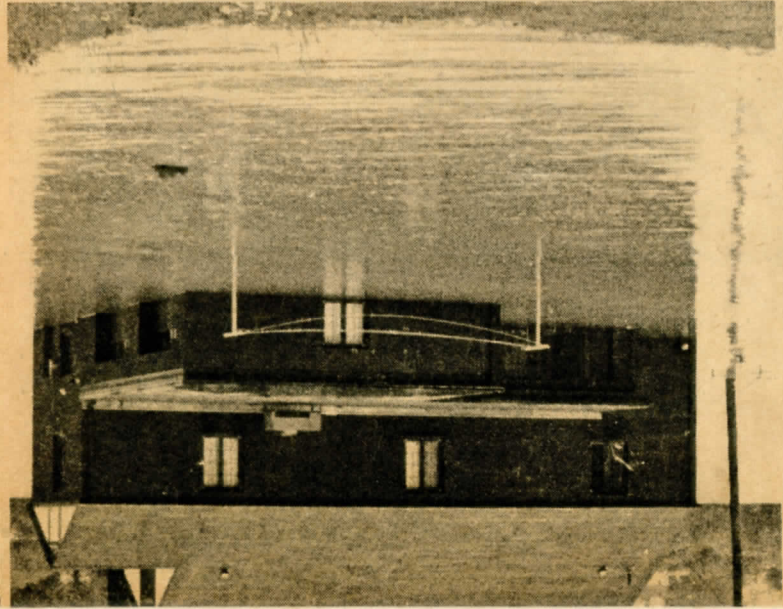
Stranded car on Wyoming Ave., West Pittston

June 25, 1972 SD

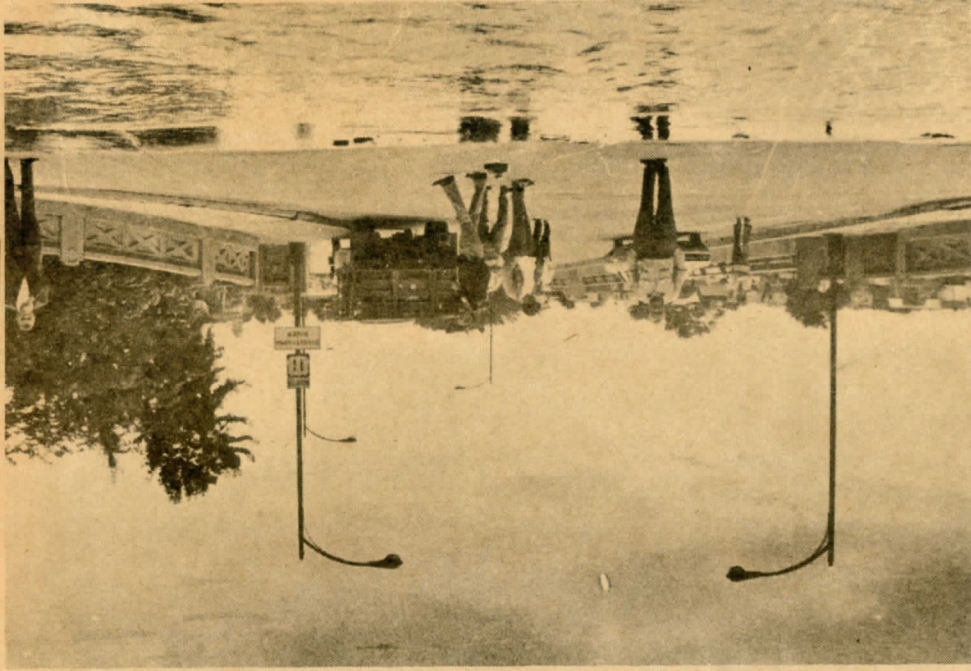


Debris slams pier of Fort Jenkins Bridge

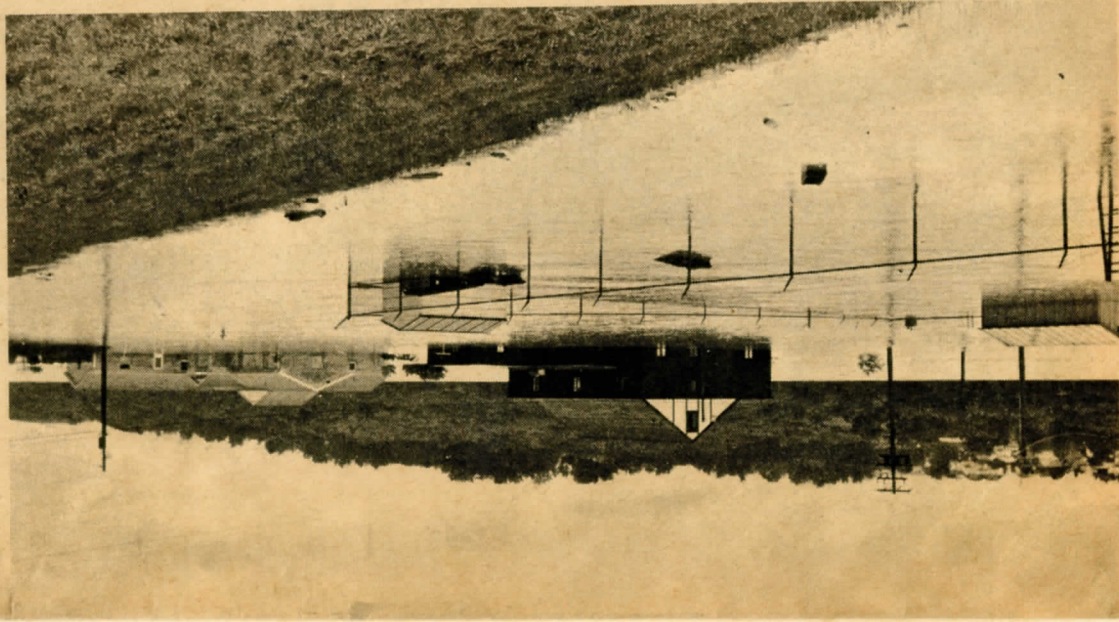
June 25, 1972 SD



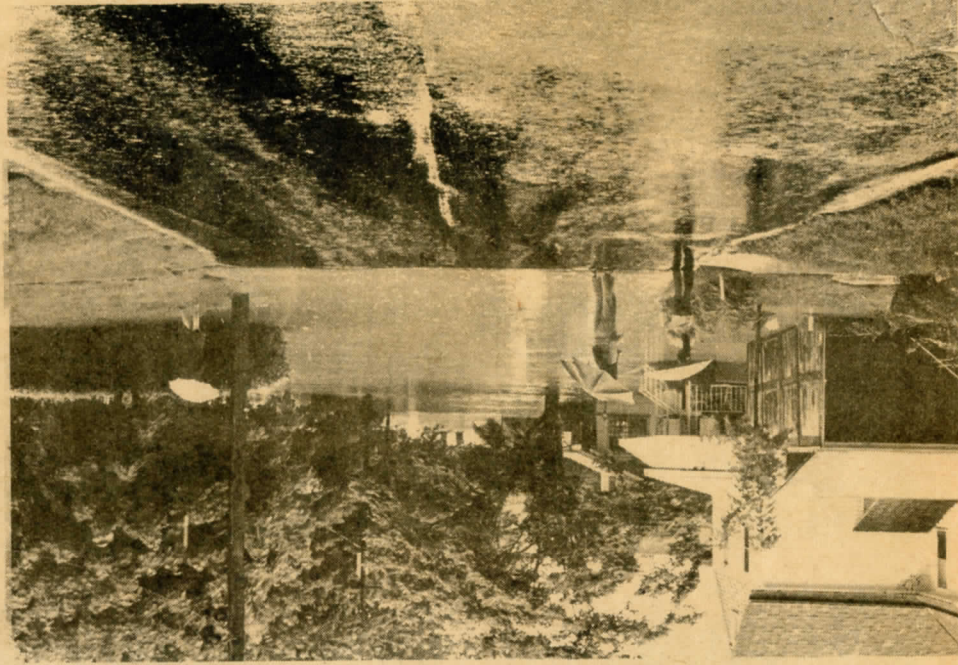
Flooded house on Susquehanna Ave.,



View from boat looking toward Fort Jenkins Bridge



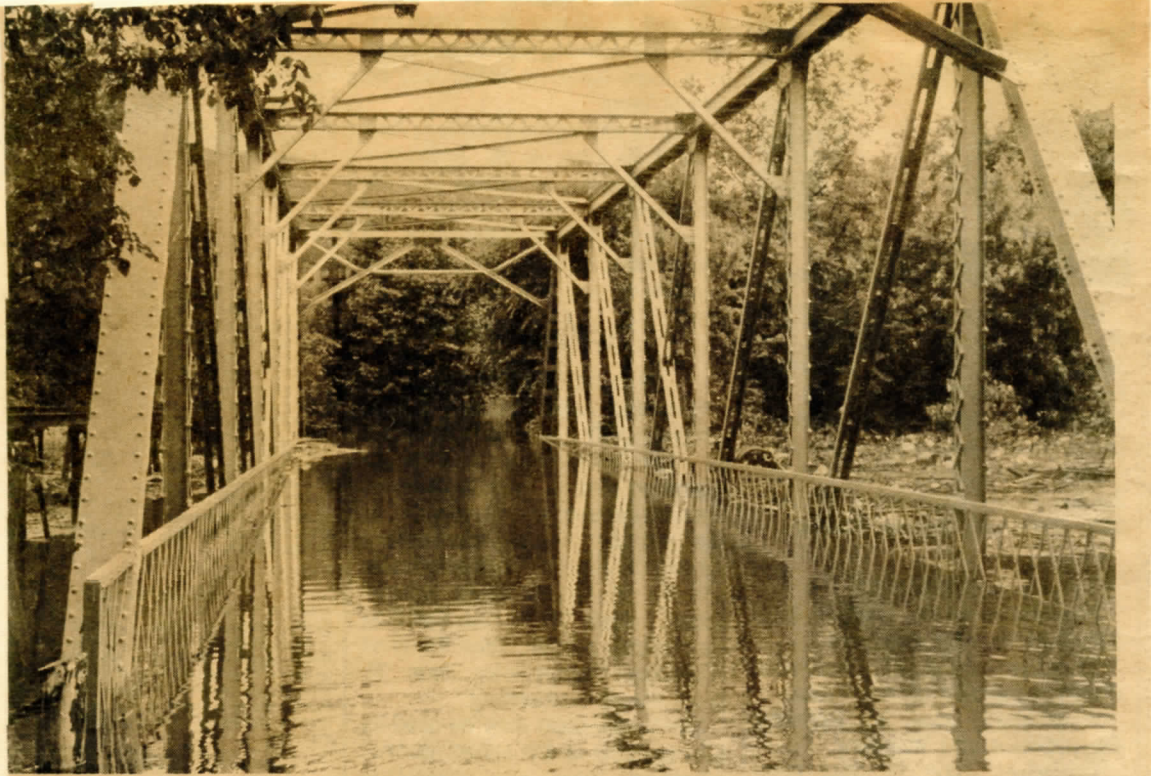
View of river looking towards Pittston Hospital



North Street looking toward river in West Pittston

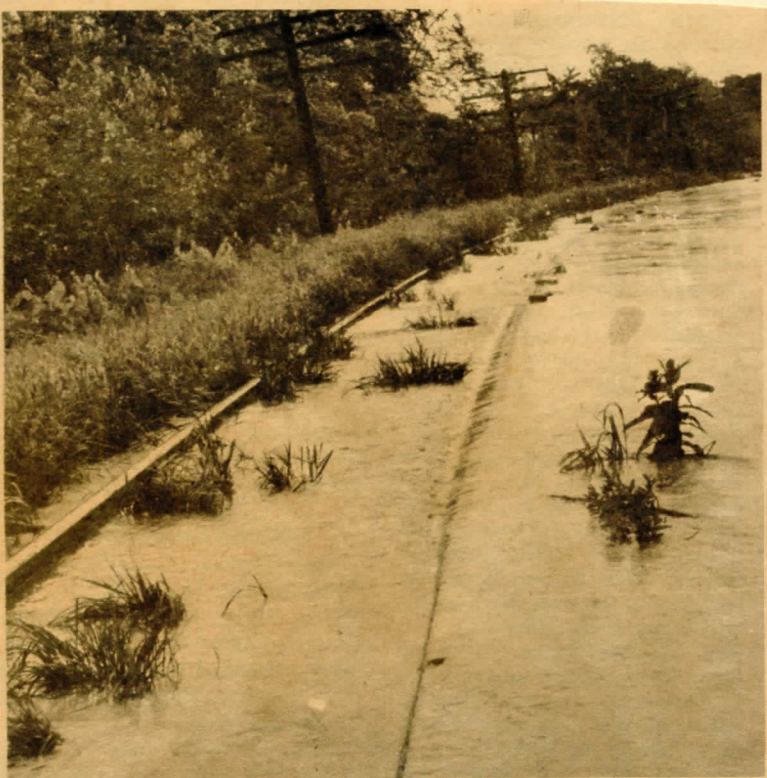
June 25, 1972

SD



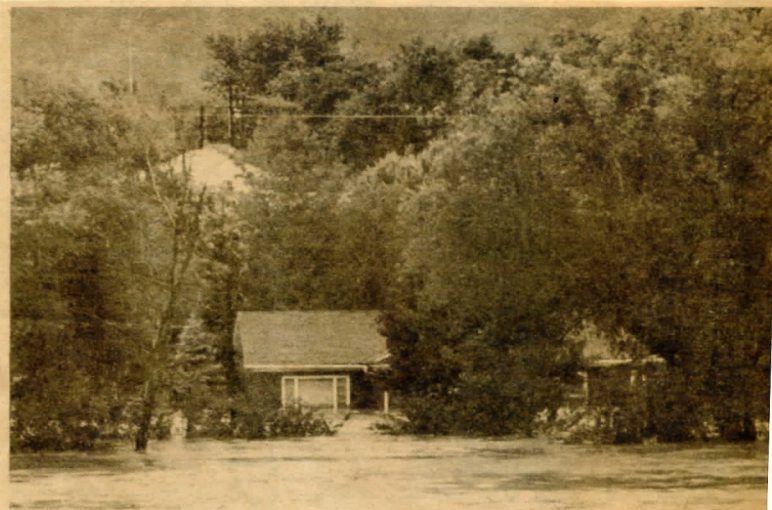
Flooded bridge on way to Coxton Yards

June 25, 1972 SD



Flooded tracks in Pittston

June 25, 1972 SD



Home on Susquehanna Ave., West Pittston

SUNDAY DISPATCH, JUNE 25, 1972



The Garden Village was hit hard

June 25, 1972 SD

Scranton Was 77 Hours Away

Maureen Klapproth, a Wilkes College alumna and former employe of the Osterhout Free Library, provides a first-hand account of life in Wilkes-Barre between Thursday and evacuation from her Provincial Tower apartment Saturday night in an article prepared for the Scranton Tribune.

Miss Klapproth, currently employed as a Woman's Page writer for the Tribune, relates experiences which began shortly before flood waters swept into downstate areas on Thursday morning and ended when she returned to her Scranton office via boat, truck and car.

By MAUREEN KLAPROTH

When I left the Tribune office Wednesday evening, I never thought I'd be returning 77 hours later via boat, Army truck and fireman's car.

At 5 p. m. Wednesday I left Scranton to return to my Wilkes-Barre apartment to finish packing my belongings. I had plans to move into my new apartment on Clay Avenue last Friday.

Thursday morning I got up as usual and went to the Greyhound bus terminal to catch the commuter ride to Scranton. I was rather irritated when we were told the bus wouldn't be coming through because it had difficulty getting out of Washington and Harrisburg.

I called in to work, perturbed that a little rain could prevent me from getting to the office.

Friday morning a friend called me, 5:30 a. m., to tell me she had to evacuate her apartment in South Wilkes-Barre immediately.

I turned on the radio and discovered that the river was rising rapidly and that people in the lowlands had to move out. I tried to get a cab to Scranton and was told that they couldn't leave Wilkes-Barre because they were needed for emergency evacuation work.

I began to realize that I might be stranded in my apartment for a day or so, so I went out and found a small hoagie shop open on the Square. I bought a six-pack of Coke and a box of doughnuts. Back at my apartment I boiled several pots of water and added iodine to it, and filled my bathtub with more water.

I asked the acting manager of the Provincial Tower Apartments, Mr. Hayes, what I could do to help. He asked me to start at the twelfth floor and awaken the occupants and tell them to boil water while we still had electricity.

After that we collected pillow cases and bedding from several of the women in the building and carried the bedding to the YMCA Building which was going to be an evacuation center. The pillowcases were needed at the River Commons to be filled with sand.

I stayed at the River Com-

shoveling dirt. We used pillowcases, plastic trash bags, burlap, whatever could be filled. No one asked questions, and no one complained about the rain which kept pouring on our heads, defeating our efforts even as we worked.

When I climbed the dike with sand bags I could see that the water was only about a foot away from me.

Around 11 a. m. police cruisers drove down River Street ordering us to evacuate the area. They feared the river would break through even as the thousands of people worked at the dikes.

I walked away from the river holding back my tears, I kept thinking, "My God, how hard these people have worked for nothing."

Friday was a long day, but nothing really seemed unusual about it in our building until the power went off around 5 p. m. We gathered together candles, flashlights and transistors.

From my balcony I could see Red Cross vehicles and Army jeeps traveling up and down the streets. Sirens and alarms had sounded all day and continued through the night. I re-

member thinking that it looked and sounded like old films of the London blitz.

A 8 p. m. a curfew went into effect, and my last view of Wilkes-Barre that evening revealed a quiet, eerily dark expanse of glittering, Christmas-like lights—was now dark, with a silence broken occasionally by sirens.

My neighbors and I went to sleep calmly Friday night, however, feeling that the worst was over. No one thought of leaving—the water which had reached South Franklin Street, the one between us and River Street, seemed to be receding.

Public Square was dry.

At 5 a. m., my neighbor, Mrs. Gilligan, pounded on my door and told me to look outside. I ran to my terrace. To my left what looked like an entire block of Pennsylvania Avenue was raging with fire. To my right, South Main Street had water rising half way up the first floor.

We watched as a mailbox which had been partially visible when we woke was covered with water. Car tops which had been above water level disappeared. Public Square was flooded almost to the top of the phone booths.

As the current got stronger in the waterways which had been city streets the night before—store windows broke and set off burglar alarms. We watched manikians float macabrely out of the Boston Store looking like bloated bodies. A yellow sofa floated jauntily out of a furniture store. A display of red, white and blue sneakers floated by on its table top with a few stray pairs bobbing along behind like little ducks.

During the day we watched so many heroic rescues that it became almost commonplace. Firemen fought the enormous blaze on Pennsylvania Avenue from boats—and as the walls fell into the water we feared for their safety.

Helicopter rescue crews lowered themselves time after time to pick people from rooftops. An elderly gentleman in our apartment had to be removed to a hospital. Men carried him from the second floor to the rooftop where a helicopter crew removed him.

We began making provisions to stay. Boats delivered dozens of bottles of distilled water to our building. Women began boiling water on two little hibachi grills. Some men climbed over rooftops to Percy Brown's market and brought back loaves of bread, rolls and cigarettes.

Someone had the foresight the night before to remove a supply of candles from a shop on the first floor of the building and we put one on each floor's stairwell. It helped us move from floor to floor since the elevators

June 25, 1972 ST

June 25, 1972 SD



Motor boat on Wyoming Ave.

had plans to move into my new apartment on Clay Avenue last Friday.

Thursday morning I got up as usual and went to the Greyhound bus terminal to catch the commuter ride to Scranton. I was rather irritated when we were told the bus wouldn't be coming through because it had difficulty getting out of Washington and Harrisburg.

I called in to work, perturbed that a little rain could prevent me from getting to the office.

Friday morning a friend called me, 5:30 a. m., to tell me she had to evacuate her apartment in South Wilkes-Barre immediately.

I turned on the radio and discovered that the river was rising rapidly and that people in the lowlands had to move out. I tried to get a cab to Scranton and was told that they couldn't leave Wilkes-Barre because they were needed for emergency evacuation work.

I began to realize that I might be stranded in my apartment for a day or so, so I went out and found a small hoagie shop open on the Square. I bought a six-pack of Coke and a box of doughnuts. Back at my apartment I boiled several pots of water and added iodine to it, and filled my bathtub with more water.

I asked the acting manager of the Provincial Tower Apartments, Mr. Hayes, what I could do to help. He asked me to start at the twelfth floor and awaken the occupants and tell them to boil water while we still had electricity.

After that we collected pillow cases and bedding from several of the women in the building and carried the bedding to the YMCA Building which was going to be an evacuation center. The pillowcases were needed at the River Commons to be filled with sand.

I stayed at the River Commons during the morning to hold open bags for the men

June 25, 1972 SD



the first floor. We watched as a mailbox which had been partially visible when we woke was covered with water. Car tops which had been above water level disappeared. Public Square was flooded almost to the top of the phone booths.

As the current got stronger in the waterways which had been city streets the night before—store windows broke and set off burglar alarms. We watched manikians float macabrely out of the Boston Store looking like bloated bodies. A yellow sofa floated jauntily out of a furniture store. A display of red, white and blue sneakers floated by on its table top with a few stray pairs bobbing along behind like little ducks.

During the day we watched so many heroic rescues that it became almost commonplace. Firemen fought the enormous blaze on Pennsylvania Avenue from boats — and as the walls fell into the water we feared for their safety.

Helicopter rescue crews lowered themselves time after time to pick people from rooftops. An elderly gentleman in our apartment had to be removed to a hospital. Men carried him from the second floor to the rooftop where a helicopter crew removed him.

We began making provisions to stay. Boats delivered dozens of bottles of distilled water to our building. Women began boiling water on two little hibachi grills. Some men climbed over rooftops to Percy Brown's market and brought back loaves of bread, rolls and cigarettes.

Someone had the foresight the night before to remove a supply of candles from a shop on the first floor of the building and we put one on each floor's stairwell. It helped us move from floor to floor since the elevators were out and the hall and stairways were pitch black.

June 25, 1972. SD

SUNDAY DISPATCH, JUNE 25, 1972



Site of Midway Shopping Center and Wyoming Valley Airport

June 25, 1972

SD



Strong current off Fort Jenkins Bridge

June 25, 1972.

SD



Helicopter surveys flood scene in West Pittston

June 25, 1972 SD



River looking north from

...Pittston, did his bit Friday
...ing as he joined volunteers
...sandbags at the Wilkes-
...dike before the flood waters
...ut.
...food supply on the east side
...good shape and residents
...n't even experience shor-
...over. Sunday since four large

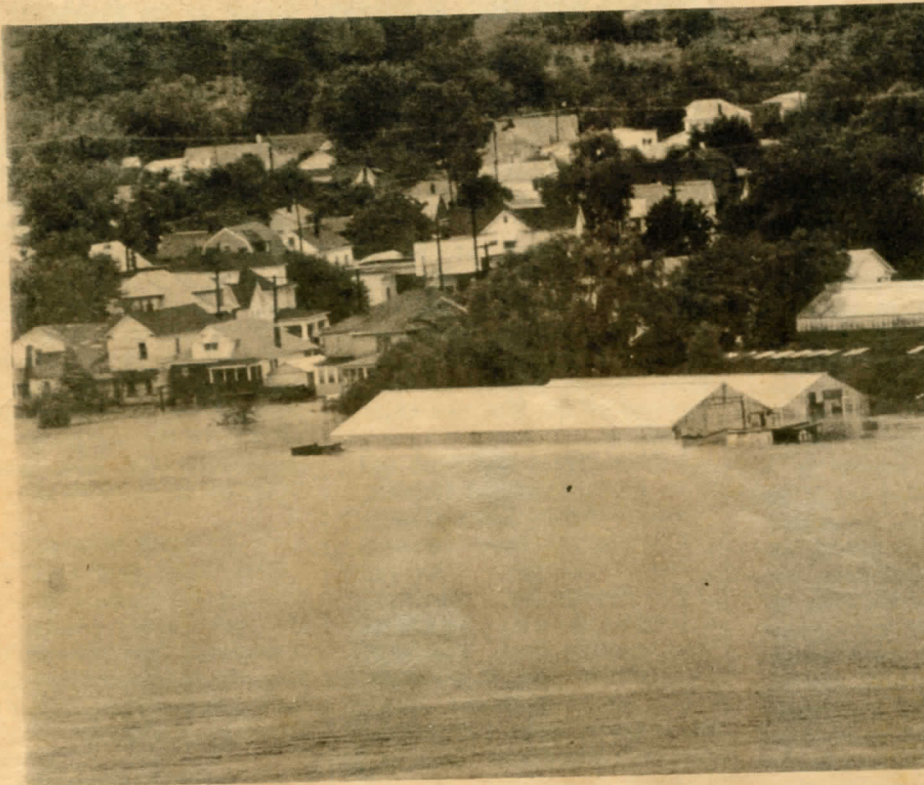
which deposits
Plaza parkin
Frank Nocito
employee, too
Scranton.

Police Chief
Pittston deci
jacket for an
the Fort Jen



June 25, 1972 SD.

SUNDAY DISPATCH, JUNE 25, 1972



Flooded Greenho

Flood Notes F Greater

JENKINS FIREMEN
...ins Twp. Firemen had
...small pumps in use over
...weekend and on Saturday
...a 40,000 gallon per hour
...for use in pumping out
...once the flood waters
...d.

...e Ladies' Auxiliary to
...ins Twp. Hose Co. are
...pting food and clothing
...s which are being shuttled
...ne emergency station at
...no Downs.

...othing and food items are
...being accepted at the
...t Methodist Church,
...ston, under the supervision
...ev. Charles F. Gommer,
...A refuge center is also set
...ere but so far has not been
...ed.

...er Robert Brague, assistant
...of St. John the Evangelist

...super mar
...Detato's on
...ston; Insalaco
...on Kennedy
...City, Pittsto
...Pittston Pl
...Bypass.

INSALACO
...Insalaco's
...belatedly or
...determination
...his brother
...a store offic
...side. They r
...Erie-Lack
...bridge, wall
...ston Junctio
...central city

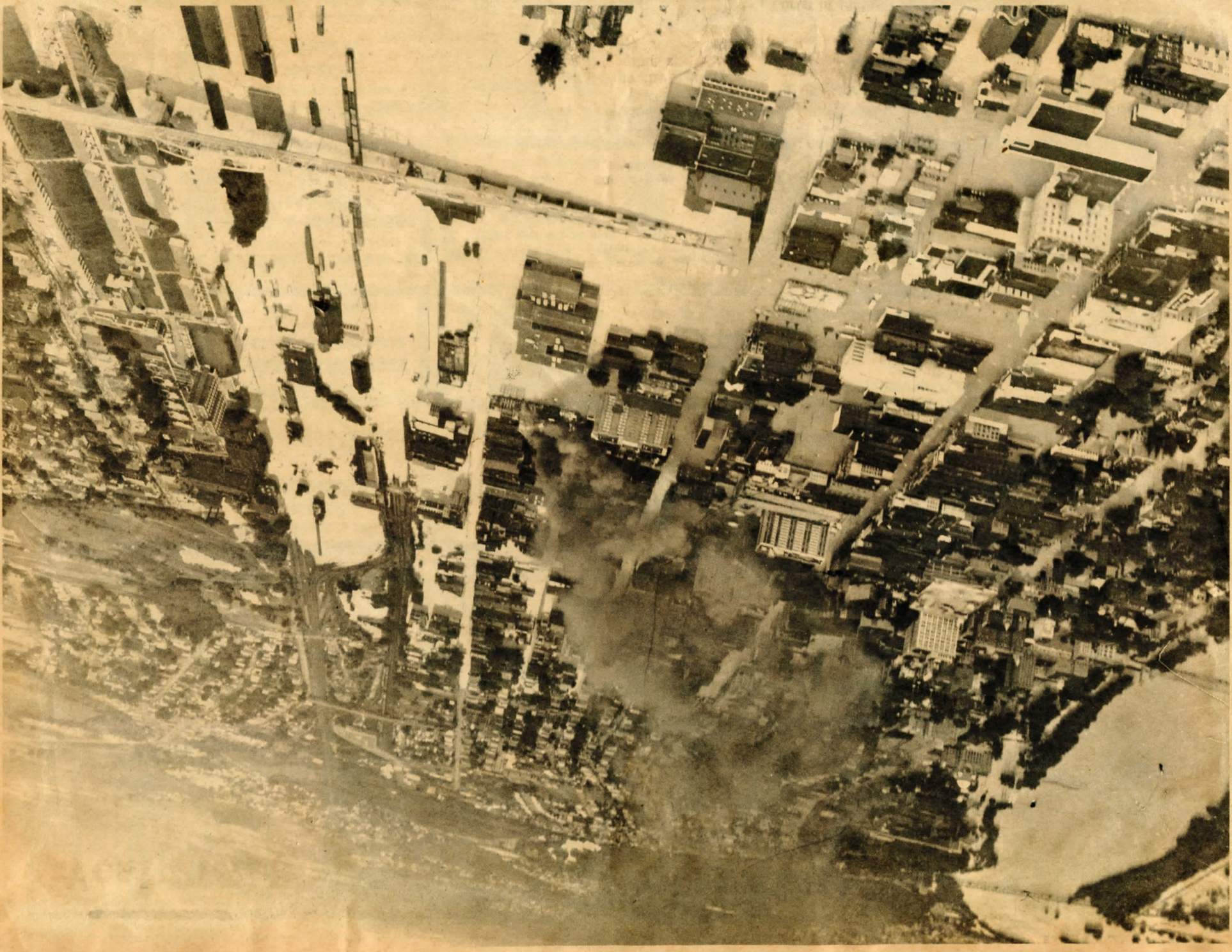
...Manny G
...Pittston, the
...was needed
...command
...established
...a ride on
...which done

June 25, 1972

SD

SUNDAY DISPATCH, JUNE 25, 1972

Fire on Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilkes-Barre and the innun dated South St. Bridge



June 25, 1972 SD



Carey Avenue Bridge, Wilkes-Barre

June 25, 1972. SD



Residential Area in Kingston

June 25, 1972 SD

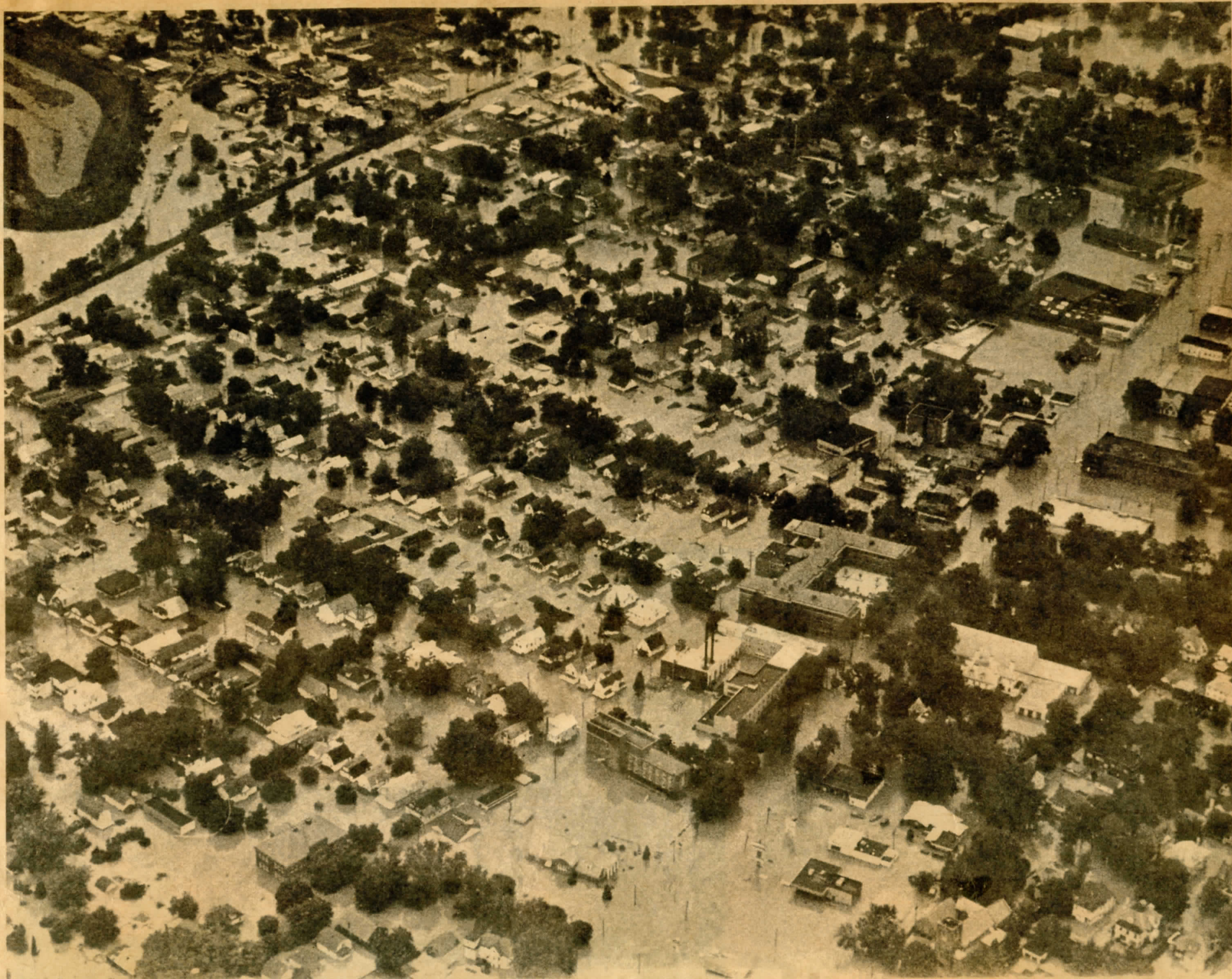
SUNDAY DISPATCH, JUNE 25, 1972



View of West Pittston from Pittston Hospital

June 25, 1972 SD

SUNDAY DISPATCH, JUNE 25, 1972



Nesbitt Hospital and surrounding areas

June 25, 1972 SD



SUNDAY DISPATCH, JUNE 25, 1972

Flooded railroad tracks on North Main St., Pittston

June 25, 1972. SD



PUBLIC SQUARE - WYKE-BARRE

June 25, 1972

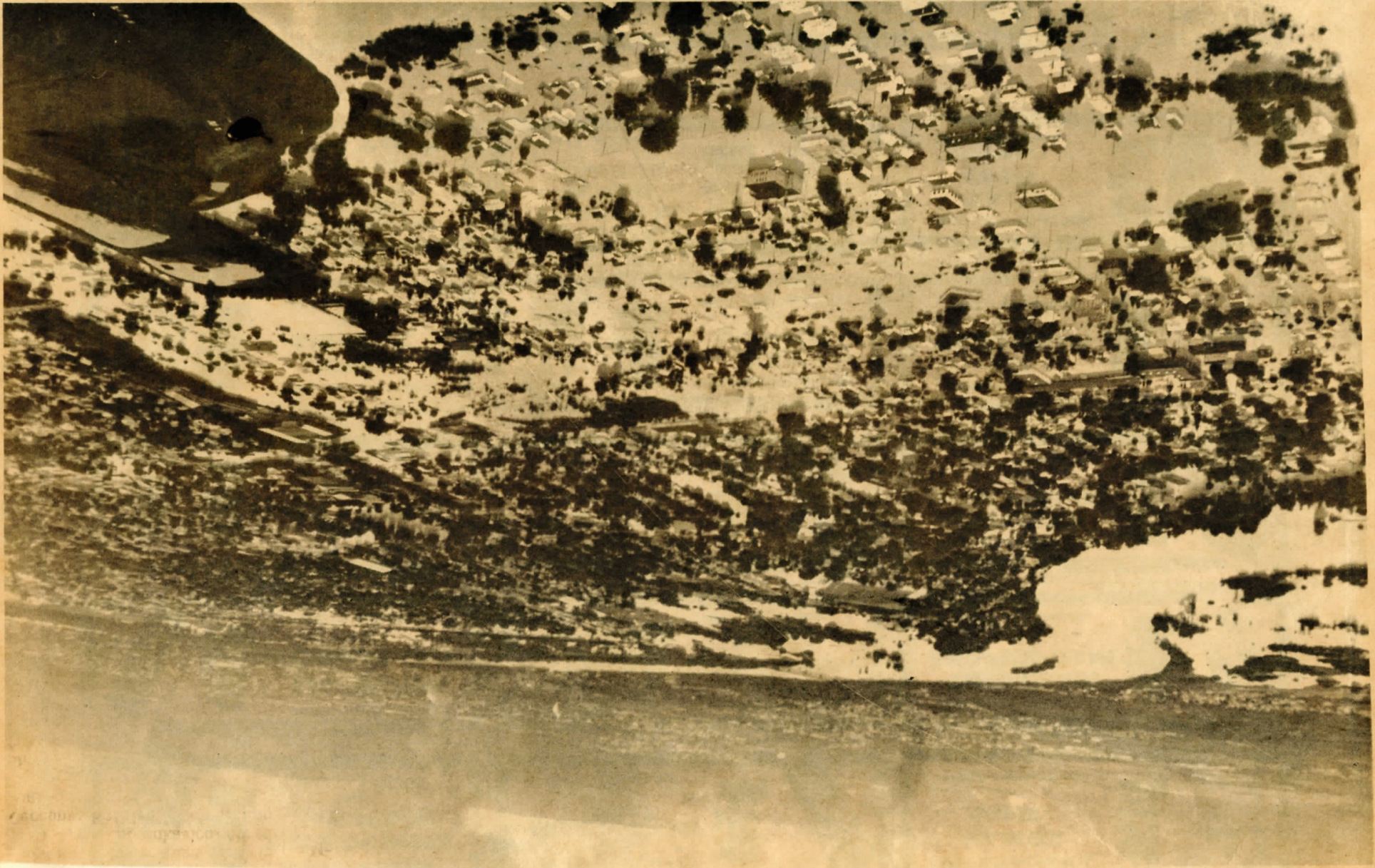
SD

SUNDAY DISPATCH, JUNE 25, 1972



Scene looking up Exeter Ave., West Pittston

Forty-Fort and vicinity



J.D.
June 25, 1972

Dr. Nejib to attend council

Dr. Umid R. Nejib, associate professor of engineering at Wilkes College, will participate in a week long conference sponsored by the Kuwait National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, beginning on Sunday, December 28, in Kuwait.

The conference, "Human Resources for Tech-

nological Development in the Arab World," will deal with manpower needs for planning and development, education and development of human resources and requirements and needs for the development of science and technology.

Dr. Nejib also will participate in a panel

discussion dealing with the needs for new technologies and will present this paper "Requiriements for an Effective Engineering Curriculum in Developing Areas."

The conference will host 250 participants, half of whom will represent the United States.

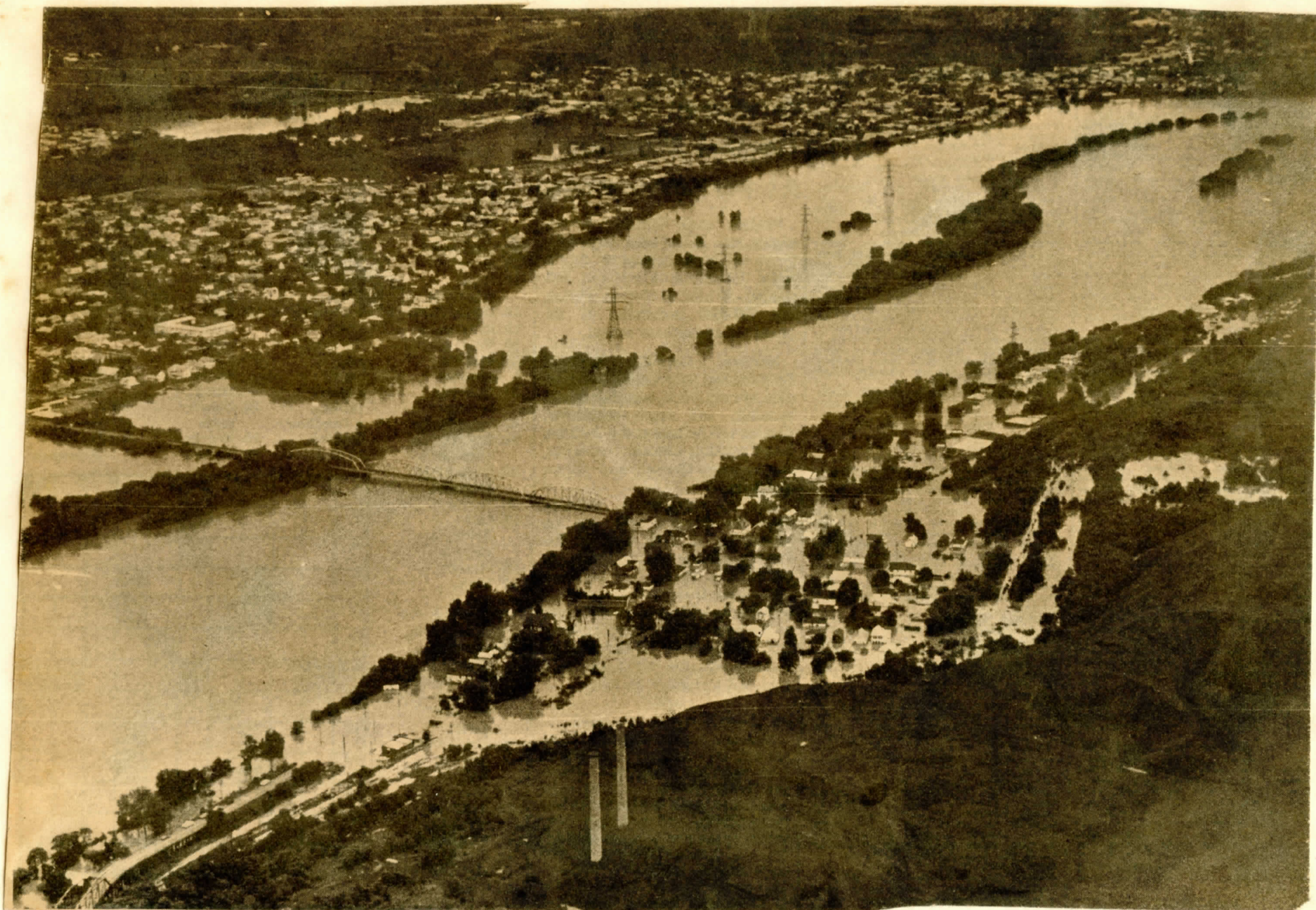
Dr. Nejib received his

B.S. Degree from the University of Baghdad College of Engineering and his M.S. and Ph. D. Degrees in electrical engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University Institute of Technology.

Dr. Nejib resides with his wife and two children at 96 Terrace Avenue, Trucksville.



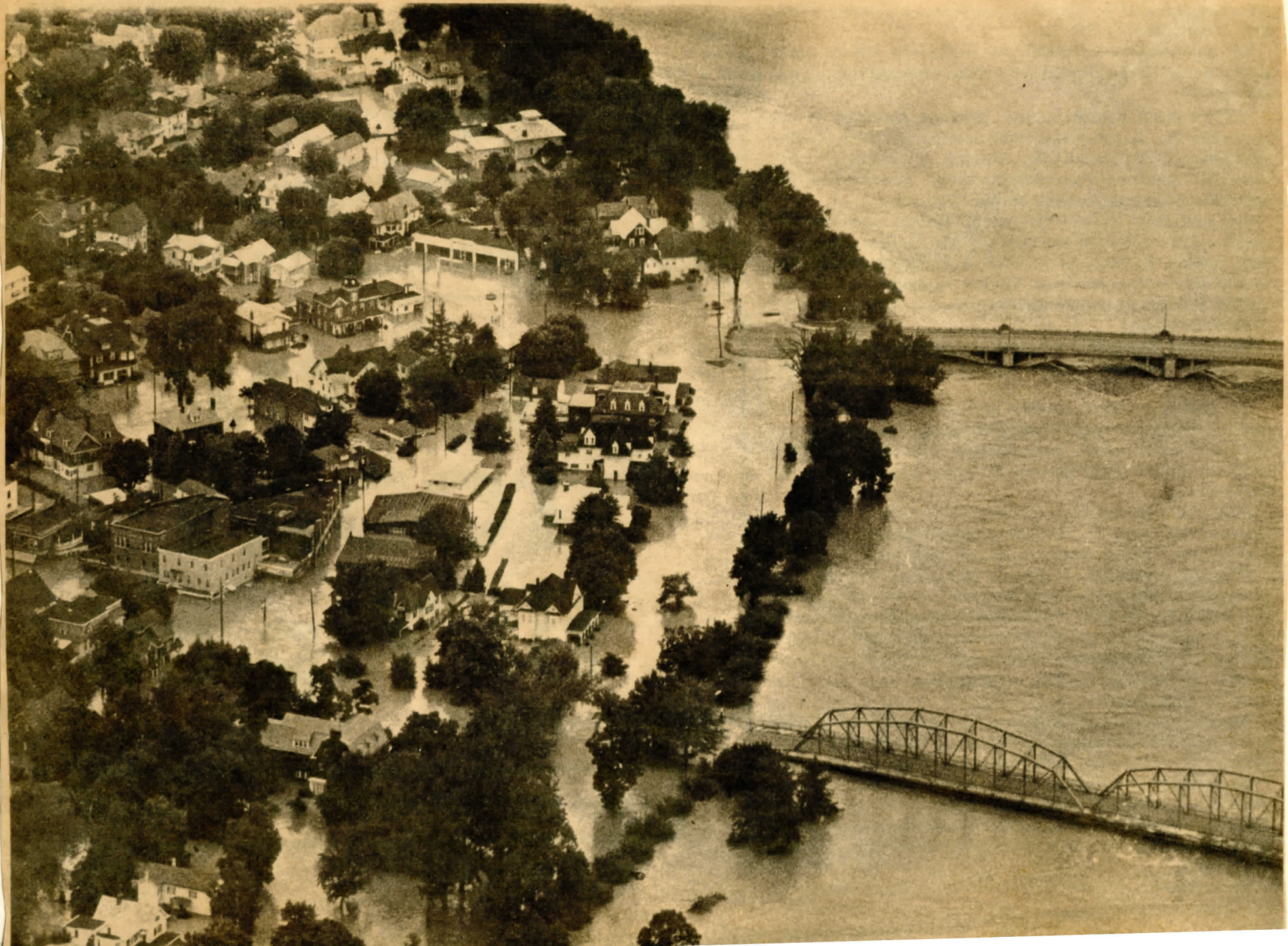
Luzerne and Wyoming Avenues, West Pittston

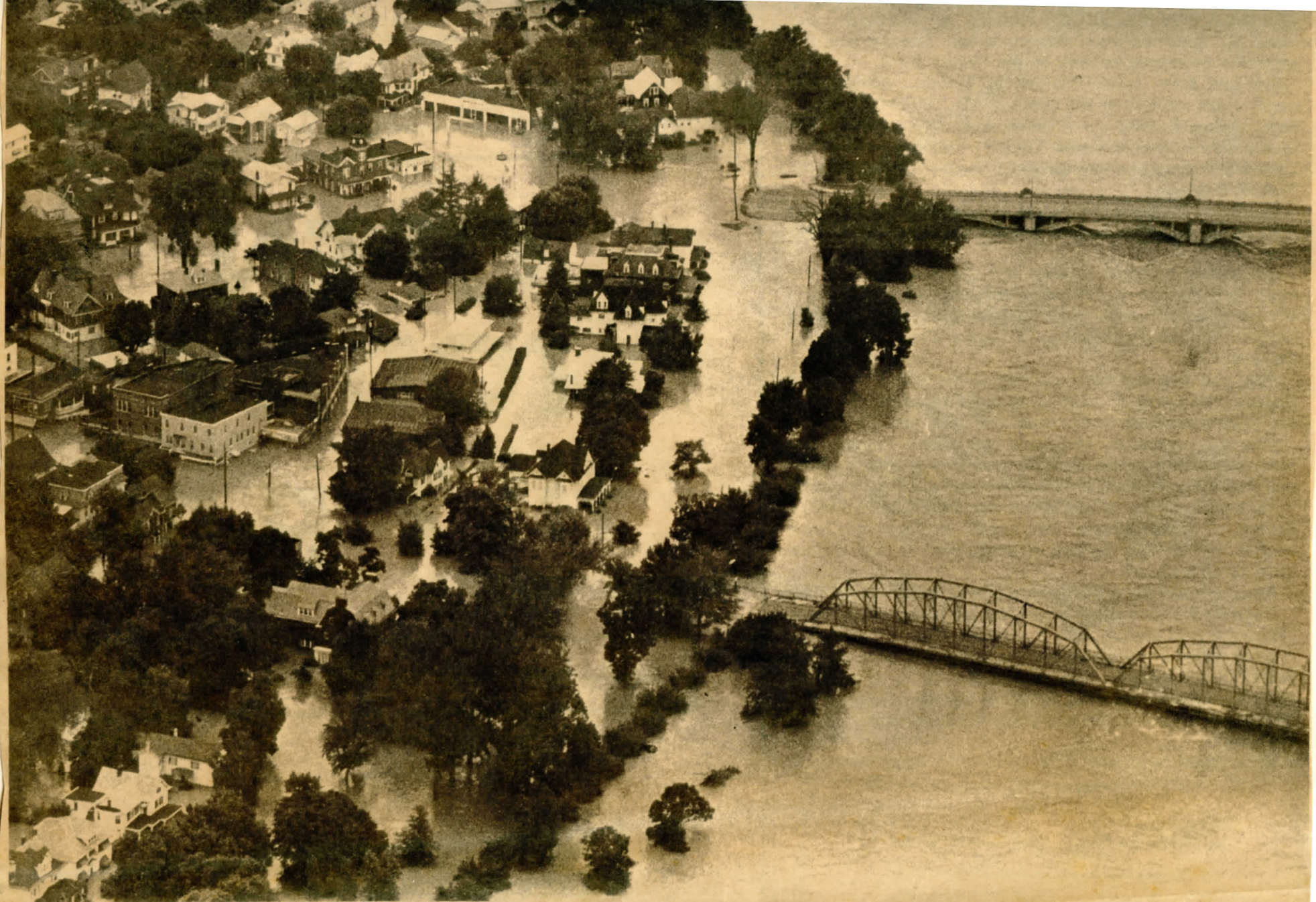


Port Blanchard and Wyoming Bridge

June 25, 12. L.D.

View Of Bridges Indicates Scope Of Flood In West Pittston



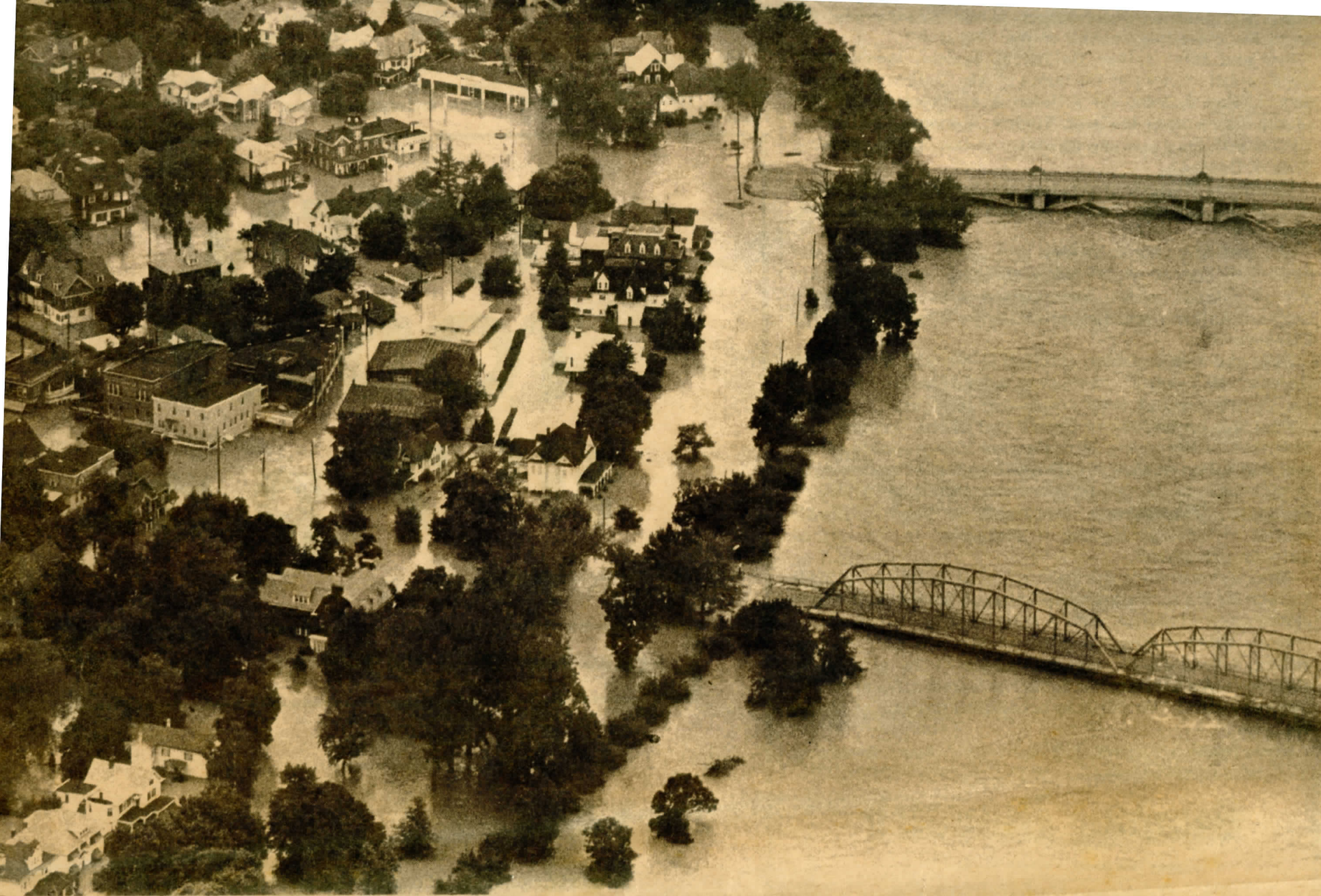


This aerial view of the westerly approaches to the Fort Jenkins and the Water Street bridges as well as a section of Susquehanna Ave., West Pittston shows the magnitude of the disastrous flood which resulted when the rain-swollen Susquehanna River spilled its banks last week throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The flooded Luzerne Avenue, Wyoming Avenue and Exeter Avenue approaches to two bridges in West Pittston are clearly visible in the photo. An indication of the depth of the raging river can be noted by the closeness of the river waters to the bridges' decks.

The river waters barely missed covering the bridge

decks before cresting at 43 feet in mid-afternoon Saturday. In the meantime countless Greater Pittstonians mostly from the west side, are homeless having fled their homes just in advance of the rising river waters early Friday morning.



This aerial view of the westerly approaches to the Fort Jenkins and the Water Street bridges as well as a section of Susquehanna Ave., West Pittston shows the magnitude of the disastrous flood which resulted when the rain-swollen Susquehanna River spilled its banks last week throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The flooded Luzerne Avenue, Wyoming Avenue and Exeter Avenue approaches to two bridges in West Pittston are clearly visible in the photo. An indication of the depth of the raging river can be noted by the closeness of the river waters to the bridges' decks.

The river waters barely missed covering the bridge

decks before cresting at 43 feet in mid-afternoon Saturday. In the meantime countless Greater Pittstonians mostly from the west side, are homeless having fled their homes just in advance of the rising river waters early Friday morning.



June 26, 72
L.D.

Sunken taxi in West Pittston



June 27
TLEN

EDWARDSVILLE DESERTED—A lone policeman in Edwarsville looks toward Kingston Corners from the vicinity of the ravaged Narrows Shopping Center. The area was plagued with gas leaks. Looting was reported and security was of prime concern.

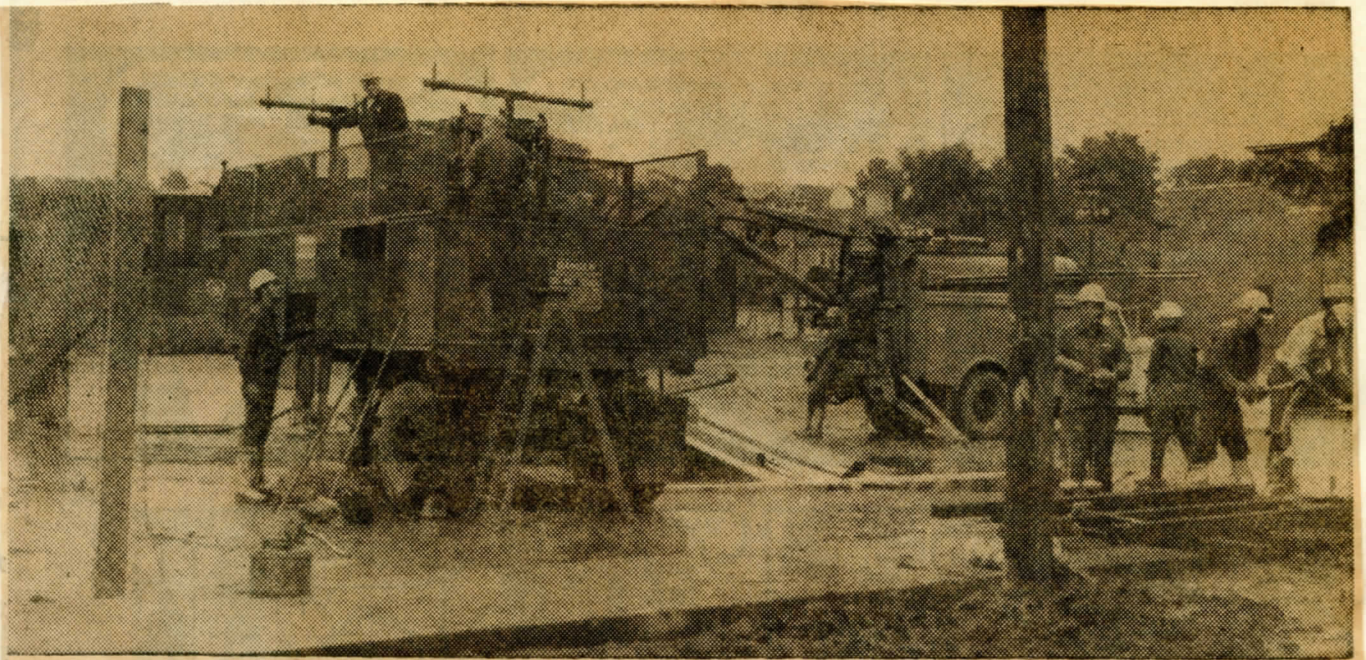
June 27,
1972



VITAL BRIDGE OPENED—Workmen pump water from the dike area on S. River Street at the eastern end of the Market Street Bridge to Kingston. Watching the clearance operation are Joe Juliano, John Migliore and William Kelly from the Seabee unit at the Naval Reserve Center, Avoca.



ORIGIN UNKNOWN—A 20,000-gallon service station gasoline tank, lost but not unnoticed, sits in the middle of Wilkes-Barre's Public Square. Military police said the tank will be moved today.



EMERGENCY SUBSTATION—Crews of the Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. erect an emergency power substation

Monday at S. Main and Sullivan streets in Wilkes-Barre. PP&L has moved several of the portable units into the flood disaster area.

*June 27
1972*



WASTING NO TIME—Employees of the Central Travel and Ticket Agency in the Martz Building on Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, push mud and debris from the building and air soggy furniture.



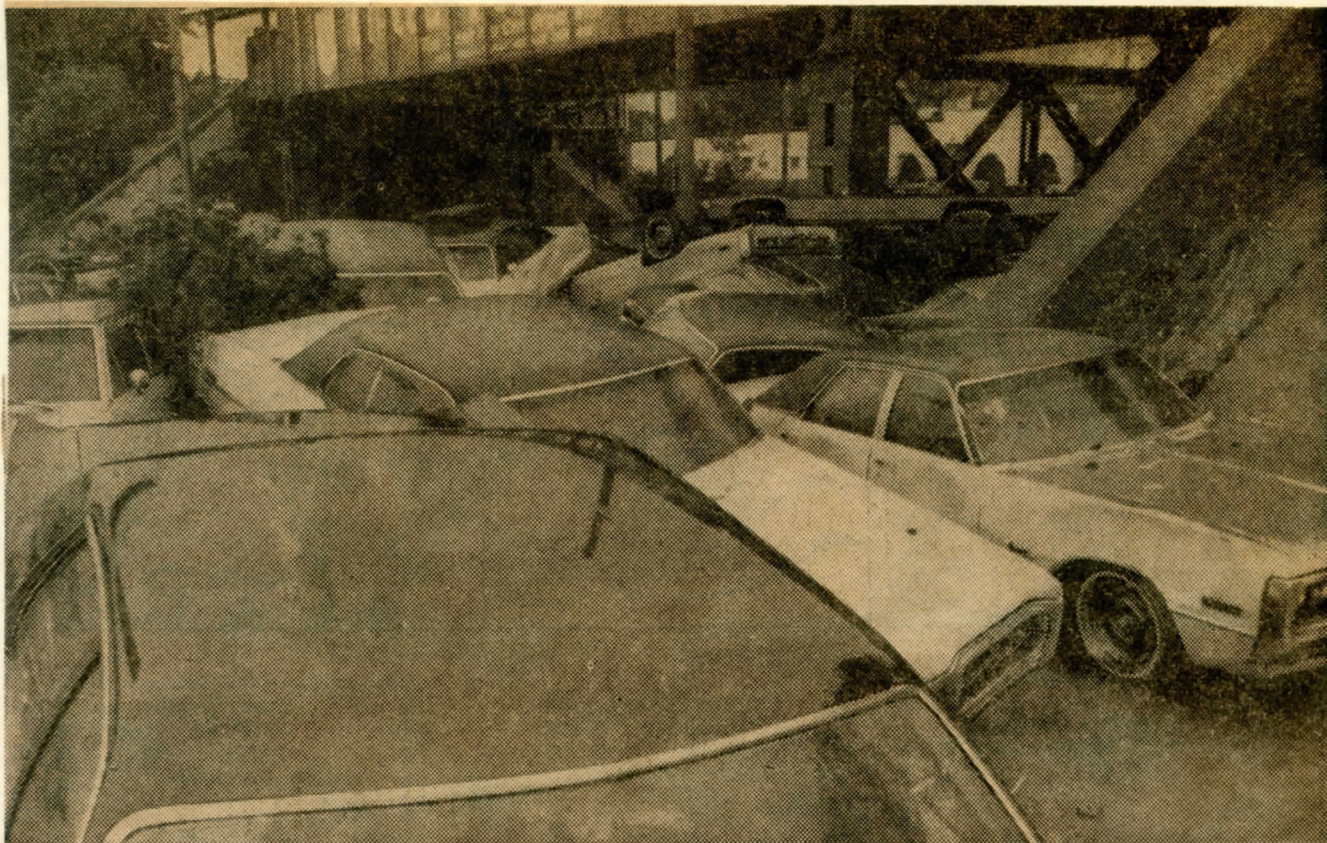
MAMMOTH SORTING JOB—Volunteers at Marywood College sort thousands of clothing items donated by area residents

for homeless victims in flood-ravaged neighboring towns. Civil Defense officials in Wilkes-Barre say the response by Scranton area residents is "overwhelming."

June 27

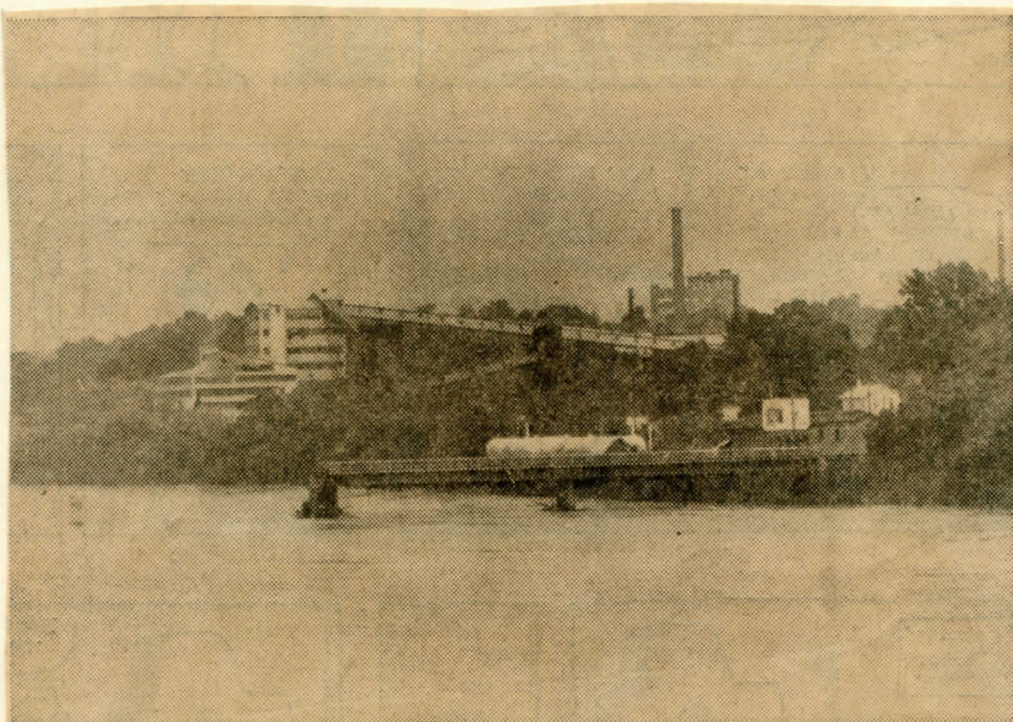


KINGSTON STREET SCENE—Entire porches, roofs, furniture and other debris blocked Goodwin Street in Kingston Monday, one block off E. Market Street. Only the chirping of birds broke an eerie silence.



SMASHED AND SCATTERED—New automobiles, crumpled and tossed about like toys, litter a lot across from Superior

Motor Co. on Market Street in Kingston. Ruined cars, household furnishings and roofs from homes lay scattered everywhere in the hard-hit community.



BRIDGE WASHED OUT—Remains of the North Street Bridge jut into the Susquehanna from the Wilkes-Barre side of the river. The rest of the bridge is gone and Army engineers plan to replace it with a prefabricated steel span.

June 27, 72

Other Communities Take Heavy Damage

Communities upstream of Luzerne County also sustained heavy damage when the Susquehanna River flooded its banks.

An air tour of the devastated area as far north as Tioga County by U. S. Congressman Joseph McDade and several newsmen found destruction over a wide area. The only difference was that the upstream areas are not as densely populated as the Wilkes-Barre area.

Battered homes, businesses and factories, downed utility poles, smashed bridges and flooded roads were everywhere. The people themselves remained dazed. Many found themselves completely disoriented and have lost all track of time.

Moments after the giant chopper carrying U. S. Rep. Joseph M. McDade and the newsmen put down at Towanda, stunned victims rushed to greet them and also relay news that the first flood-caused death there had been discovered.

Ross Noble, an employee of the Masonite Corp. in Towanda, drove around a barricade and across a bridge at the height of the storm about midnight Thursday. He was not aware that the bridge had been washed away at the other end. Police came upon his deluged car with him dead inside about noon Sunday.

That was the only known death so far, Towanda officials said, and what injuries there have been were minor.

"It's just amazing there are no more deaths," muttered one dazed victim. "Just amazing."

The helicopter visit was the survivors' first personal contact with the outside since the rampaging Susquehanna clobbered Towanda, Athens and Sayre, leaving them isolated and without any reliable communications network.

Flooding waters reached near second-story levels in downtown Towanda, recalled Towanda Council President Frank Bialek. Damage will amount to millions, he estimated, adding, "At the airport alone we lost \$300,000."

Main St. was the hardest hit. Windows were smashed. Furni-

ture was swept away by the raging tide.

Communications between Towanda and the neighboring towns of Sayre and Athens were paralyzed.

But medical supplies and food, with the exception of bread, are holding up fairly well. Bread is now being airlifted in by choppers.

Towanda residents told the visitors that the community of Athens was virtually destroyed. A 10-minute hop there showed the assessment to be true.

Every business place and nearly every home, the sewage network and the roads were battered under the wrath of the surging Susquehanna and Chemung Rivers.

About 4,000 lost their homes in Athens and property damage was estimated at \$15 million minimum.

Athens Solicitor, Bob Beirne recalled the disaster as unbelievable. Still visibly dazed and showing signs of disorientation due to lack of sleep, Beirne described Athens apparent escape from casualties and death as "amazing."

The waters reached levels of five feet and above in Athens' commercial district. "Business places were just ruined," Beirne declared. "And when the waters began subsiding the debris on top rushed down and smashed windows everywhere."

"All of the furniture was swept out of the furniture store and onto the streets," he remembers. "Diamond rings, watches, all kinds of jewelry were washed away from a jewelry store. A friend of mine shoved his hand into the water and came up with three of the watches. He gave them back to the jeweler, then tried to retrieve the diamond rings."

Sayre was luckier and did not experience anywhere near the destruction wrought upon Athens.

Both Sayre and Athens were free of looters, but Towanda did have some trouble with roving bands on the prowl for ill-gained loot. Several of the looters were arrested, but neither police nor the people wanted to talk much about the incidents.

Pedestrians Permitted Through Wilkes-Barre

In a message to the public late yesterday, Gen. Frank Townend, director of Luzerne County Civil Defense, announced a relaxation of restrictions in pedestrian traffic in central city with certain stipulations.

Since a large area of the city which had been under water is now in a drying-out stage, the general noted that as of 9 a. m. certain streets or sections of streets were opened to foot travel only.

General Townend also announced that after conferring with engineers, it was decided to open Market Street Bridge as a through traffic route for access to and from the east and west sides of the river.

Those streets in the city which are open to pedestrian traffic only include all of N. and S. Washington, N. Main Street from Public Square to Academy; all of N. and S. State Streets, all of N. Franklin Street and S. Franklin Street to Sullivan Street; all of N. River Street and S. River Street to Academy.

Open for the entire distance are North Street, Jackson Street, Myers Court, Bennett Street, E. and W. Union Streets, Public Square, E. and W. Market Streets, E. and W. Northampton Streets, E. and W. South Street, E. and W. Ross Streets.

The CD director noted Academy Street is open from S. Main to S. River Street; W. River, from South to Mallery;

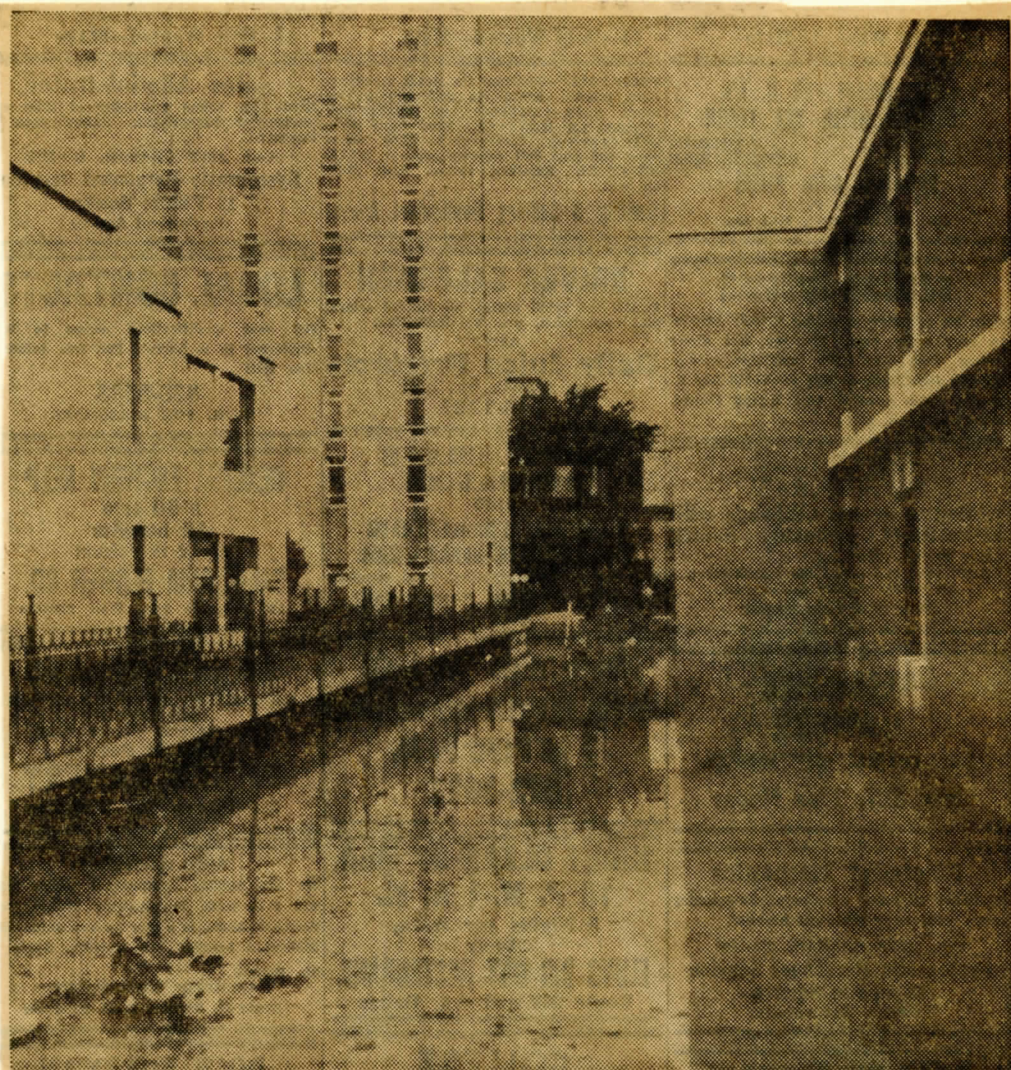
Terrace, from W. River to Sheldon; Streets open from Hanover to Wood Streets are Oregon, Westminster, Barney and Lockhart. Elizabeth Street is open from Race to Carey Avenue from Elizabeth to city line.

Gen. Townend noted other areas of South Wilkes-Barre ravaged by flood waters still hold pools of water and would not be accessible. He emphasized that the streets open to pedestrian traffic are not suitable for driving vehicles and advised residents to park cars outside of the flood area or area which had been inundated before the water receded. Broken glass and other debris still litter the roadways and flat tires have been experienced yesterday, the general said.

Clean-up crews will be working to clean debris from the roadways and residents will be advised of progress.

Fluctuating time schedule is being planned for operation of Market Street Bridge as a cross-valley access for through traffic, Gen. Townend said. This route will be used for one purpose, he said, and that is through traffic. There will be no parking or stopping allowed on the route, he added. Route will include Union Street, Luzerne-Kingston, to Wyoming Avenue, Kingston; Market Street to Market Street Bridge, and W. Market Street in Wilkes-Barre. It is hoped this plan will relieve the traffic jams on outlying roads and allow access for families and friends to rejoin on both sides of the river.

*Times Leader Evening
News
January 11, 1973*



KING'S AT FLOOD TIME—During the flood at King's College waters rose to the level of the bridge spanning the lower courtyard of the Sheehy Student Center, designed by architects-engineers Burns & L...

**MECHANICS
TRAILER
REPAIR MEN**
Must have knowledge of repair and service of truck trailers including tires. Must be able to drive. TOP PAY, TOP BENEFITS.
**PREMIUM FOR
NIGHT WORK**
APPLY DAILY 8 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
THRIFTWAY LEASING CO.
Stelton Road, Piscataway, N.J.

**POSITIONS FOR
AUTO
MECHANIC**
Available At
**ANGELO BRUNOZZI
CHEVROLET, INC.**
8ams South Parkway, at Dundee
Good Salary, Paid Vacations,
Hospitalization, Insurance.
Apply in Person

Quelling & Snelling Employment Agency

**FRONT END ALIGNMENT MECHANIC
TIRE SERVICE MEN**

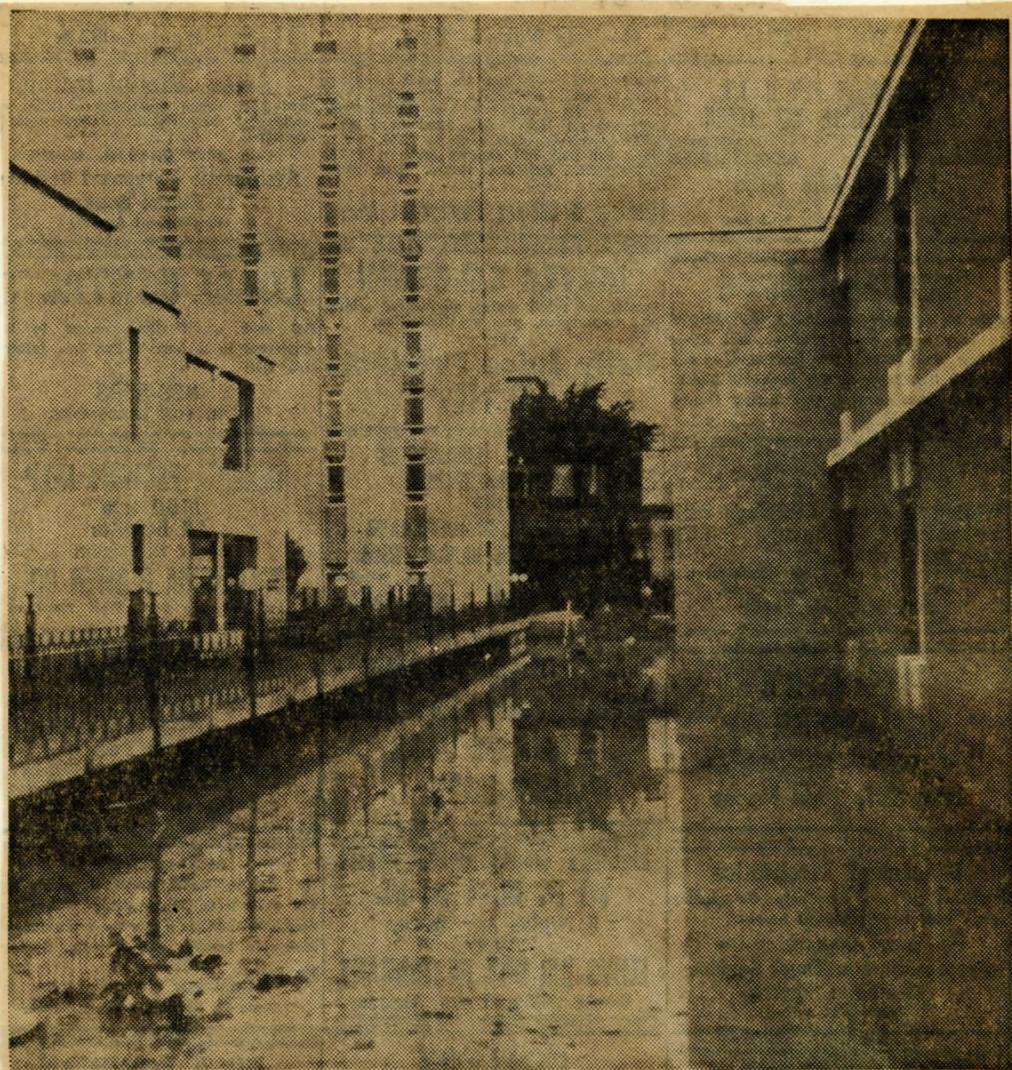
**Good Opportunity
For Person
Acquainted With
Sewing Machine
Maintenance**
Box 307, This Paper

**PRESS AND BINDERY
TRAINEES**
STARTING WAGE \$2.47 PER HOUR
Shift differential, Union shop. Benefits.
Call 675-5261
Between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**REMODELING
CARPENTERS**
Wanted
Full Time Employment
Oakwood Park Builders
Call Jack Barton
654-3316 or
343-4741

**MIDVALE
PAPER BOX CO.**
Apply in
Person Only
19 Bailey St., Plains

*Times Leader Evening
News
January 11, 1973*



KING'S AT FLOOD TIME—During the flood at King's College waters rose to the level of the bridge spanning the lower courtyard of the Sheehy Student Center, designed by architects-engineers Burns & Loewe. The Scranton-based architects and engineers donated \$20,000, or one quarter of their fee, for the reconstruction work following last June's flood.

Architects Give 25 Per Cent of Fees on Rebuilding to King's

To help repair the extensive water and mud damage that King's College suffered in last June's floods here, the architectural and engineering firm of Burns & Loewe has donated 25 per cent of the fees it received for that unusual recovery work, which has just been completed.

The Scranton-based architects, who designed the campus over the last eight years, pledged \$20,000 toward restoring the flood-ravaged buildings. It is not his view that services should be given away, architect Edward E. Loewe pointed out, but such donations are entirely within the ethical recommendations of American Institute of Architects. "It is with great pleasure that we forward the enclosed check for \$10,000, and pledge another \$10,000 to be used by flood-damaged King's College in whatever manner best suits the needs of the college," Loewe's letter to the institution's president began.

Tropical storm Agnes and the ensuing flood that devastated the greater Wilkes-Barre area on June 23 and 24 is considered by many as the greatest natural disaster in the history of the

flood, all the college buildings were found to be solid and sound; there was no structural damage. But the digging, restoration and refinishing work represented a heavy program for the architects to get ready in time for the September 7th reopening of classes.

"Although we began work on reconstruction without contract one day after flood waters had receded sufficiently," Loewe said, "we made an early decision to return 25 percent of our compensation to the college. Quite simply, it represents a desire to invest in those who invested in us as architects."

When the firm of Burns & Loewe began, eight years ago, the president of King's College, Rev. Lane D. Kilburn, placed his trust in our small, then unknown firm, feeling that we would do justice to the substantial undertakings of the college. Frankly, Rev. Father Kilburn helped get us off the ground, and we pledged to get the college out of the mud, without profit.

First, Burns & Loewe placed a full-time staff on the site in a temporary office to assess the

At the Sheehy Student Center, the lower courtyard level was inundated and destroyed. The bookstore estimated a 50 percent loss; the game room and offices for the campus literary magazine, yearbook and college newspaper were completely ruined.

Only minimal damage, however, was suffered by higher building levels including the dining hall, classrooms, and administration building. Also spared, except for three classrooms in the basement, was the 12-story dormitory, Holy Cross Hall.

The architects set to work in their on-site temporary office to prepare contracts and supervise reconstruction of the debris-filled buildings, to produce new drawings where required, and to assist in procurement of materials and labor. They also coordinated contractor activities and acted as intermediaries between and consultants to King's College, the contractors, and the Federal officials investigating flood damage. Digging out of the slime, smelly mud took weeks. Hundreds of personnel—administrative, faculty, staff, students, non-students, alumni and



KING'S AT FLOOD TIME—During the flood at King's College waters rose to the level of the bridge spanning the lower courtyard of the Sheehy Student Center, designed by architects-engineers Burns & Loewe. The Scranton-based architects and engineers donated \$20,000, or one quarter of their fee, for the reconstruction work following last June's flood.

Architects Give 25 Per Cent of Fees on Rebuilding to King's

To help repair the extensive water and mud damage that King's College suffered in last June's floods here, the architectural and engineering firm of Burns & Loewe has donated 25 per cent of the fees it received for that unusual recovery work, which has just been completed.

The Scranton-based architects, who designed the campus over the last eight years, pledged \$20,000 toward restoring the flood-ravaged buildings. It is not his view that services should be given away, architect Edward E. Loewe pointed out, but such donations are entirely within the ethical recommendations of American Institute of Architects. "It is with great pleasure that we forward the enclosed check for \$10,000, and pledge another \$10,000 to be used by flood-damaged King's College in whatever manner best suits the needs of the college," Loewe's letter to the institution's president began.

Tropical storm Agnes and the ensuing flood that devastated the greater Wilkes-Barre area on June 23 and 24 is considered by many as the greatest natural disaster in the history of the United States. It is estimated that the valley area suffered over \$1,000,000,000 in damages; 25,000 homes were seriously flooded; and a number of major employers were forced to close permanently, raising unemployment to approximately 25 percent of the work force. King's College, a 25-year-old Roman Catholic liberal arts college across one street from the cresting river, suffered more than \$4 million in damages to its \$14 million campus.

The task of cleaning and rebuilding the campus, which had been inundated by tons of mud, slime and rock, was headed by Burns & Loewe, which designed the college's athletic center in 1968, library and parking garage in 1969, residential halls in 1970 and student center and computer center in 1971. After the

flood, all the college buildings were found to be solid and sound; there was no structural damage. But the digging, restoration and repainting work represented a heavy program for the architects to get ready in time for the September 7th reopening of classes.

"Although we began work on reconstruction without contract one day after flood waters had receded sufficiently," Loewe said, "we made an early decision to return 25 percent of our compensation to the college. Quite simply, it represents a desire to invest in those who invested in us as architects."

When the firm of Burns & Loewe began, eight years ago, the president of King's College, Rev. Lane D. Kilburn, placed his trust in our small, then unknown firm, feeling that we would do justice to the substantial undertakings of the college. Frankly, Rev. Father Kilburn helped get us off the ground, and we pledged to get the college out of the mud, without profit.

First, Burns & Loewe placed a full-time staff on the site in a temporary office to assess the damage and to establish priorities for rebuilding.

Worst flooded of all was the D. Leonard Corgan Library, designed by Burns & Loewe only two years ago and housing just under 120,000 volumes. Water inundated the bottom level on the sliping site and rose to 18 inches on the first floor. Holdings in fiction, social science, backdated periodicals, government depository documents and the audio-visual department—approximately 35 percent of the library's total holdings—were destroyed.

The floor of the gymnasium, also designed by Burns & Loewe, was a total loss, affecting the dream of a basketball championship for the season. In addition, the paddle ball courts, the olympic pool, indoor rifle range, weight-lifting and wrestling rooms, locker rooms and sauna were all in shambles.

At the Sheehy Student Center, the lower courtyard level was inundated and destroyed. The bookstore estimated a 50 percent loss; the game room and offices for the campus literary magazine, yearbook and college newspaper were completely ruined.

Only minimal damage, however, was suffered by higher building levels including the dining hall, classrooms, and administration building. Also spared, except for three classrooms in the basement, was the 12-story dormitory, Holy Cross Hall.

The architects set to work in their on-site temporary office to prepare contracts and supervise reconstruction of the debris-filled buildings, to produce new drawings where required, and to assist in procurement of materials and labor. They also coordinated contractor activities and acted as intermediaries between and consultants to King's College, the contractors, and the Federal officials investigating flood damage. Digging out of the slimey, smelly mud took weeks. Hundreds of personnel—administrative, faculty, staff, students, non-students, alumni and good friends of the college—volunteered their services. There were more than 200 student volunteers at one time. Clean-up operations moved swiftly, with military efficiency, with enthusiasm and cheerfulness.

The wood basketball area in the gymnasium was replaced with a new vinyl floor. Lounges, game rooms and publications offices were remodeled with a view toward completion during the second semester. Walls were painted, wallpapered and newly-paneled. Floors were cleaned, waxed, and carpeted in some areas.

The Corgan Library reopened October 9, the gymnasium on October 25. Burns & Loewe had assisted in leading a recovery program on a building project of their own design and got King's College ready for the fall semester.

Flood Effect On Tax Filing To Be Aired

**Wilkes Sponsoring
19th Annual Tax
Clinic Nov. 17, 18**

More than 100 tax practitioners from Northeastern Pennsylvania are expected to take part in the 19th Annual Tax Clinic, a two-day program of lectures and discussions at Wilkes College Center for the Performing Arts Nov. 17-18.

Sponsored jointly by the Northeastern Chapter, Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Wilkes College Commerce and Finance Department, the clinic is designed for lawyers, accountants, bankers, industrialists and those interested in detailed and late developments in the nation's tax structure.

The tax committee, which is planning the clinic, is under the chairmanship of William J. McDonnell, CPA of Scranton.

Particular attention will be given to problems related to the tax laws governing losses and preparation of reports on Hurricane Agnes and the regional flooding.

Louis Kneidinger, chapter president, has announced that their will be seven major speakers heading the two-day program.

Scheduled to speak are:

"Year-end Tax Planning for Individuals," by Harry J. Spellman, CPA, speaker at various tax conferences including the University of Pennsylvania, New York University and other major seminars. He is a partner in charge of tax services at Lybrand, Ross Brothers and Montgomery in Pittsburgh.

"Improper Accumulations," by Thomas V. Fritz, CPA a tax partner, Arthur Young and Company, Pittsburgh; adjunct professor of law on taxation at Duquesne University and a prominent speaker before professional tax and business executive groups.

"Disposition of a Corporate Business," by John S. Ross Jr., Jack E. Hunter and M. Donald Wright, CPAs, all prominent in the accounting and law professions and recognized as authorities on general discussion of tax matters.

"A Bird's-eye View of Current Developments," by Harry S. Gross, CPA, author and teacher on tax law. He has spoken before bar groups in all of the state's major areas and holds

key offices in many of the professional groups related to his work.

"Tax-exempt Organizations," by Alan S. Getz, CPA, Haskins and Sells, New York City.

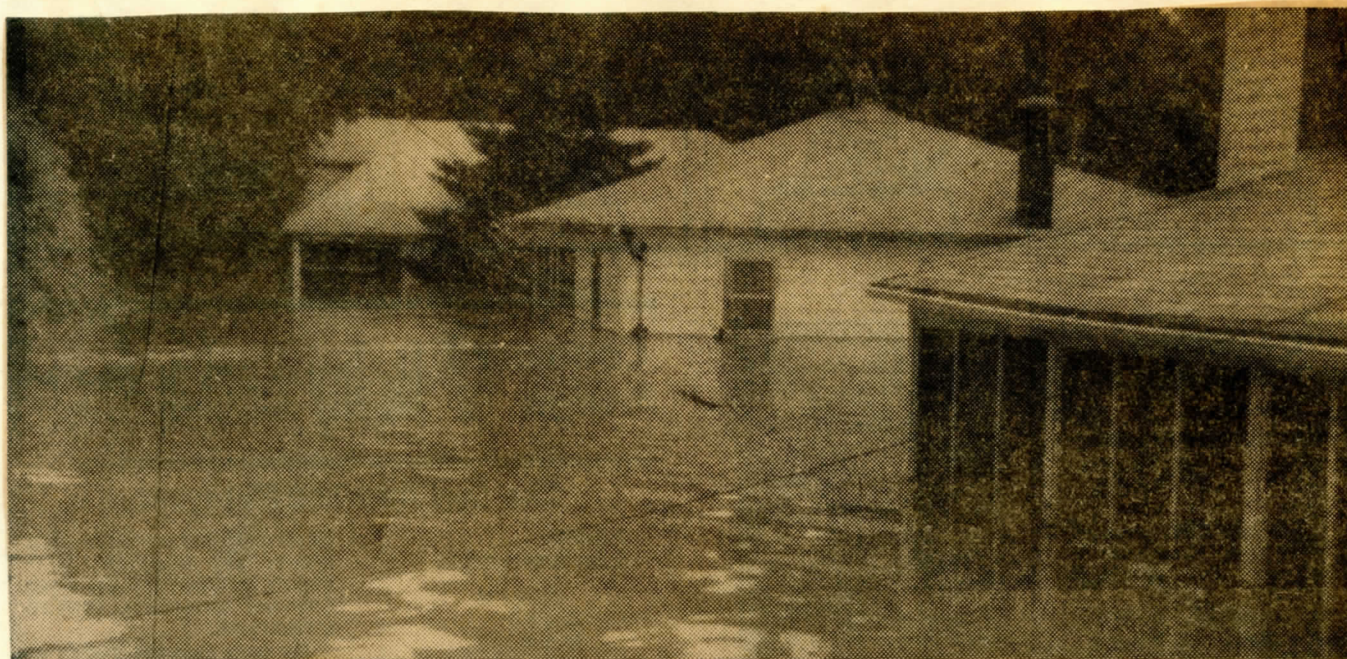
Registration for the clinic will be Nov. 17 at 8:45 a.m. with a welcome scheduled by heads of the institute and the Wilkes College Commerce and Finance Department. Friday sessions will run until 3:30 with a luncheon from 12:30 to 2.

Saturday's program will begin at 9 and end shortly before noon.

Officers of the Pennsylvania Institute of CPAs are: Louis C. Kneidinger, president; Robert T. Kelly, president-elect; John T. McHale, secretary, and Joseph N. Spanial, treasurer.

Tax clinic committee members are: William J. McDonnell, chairman; Robert S. Capin, Wilfred C. Carey, Elmo M. Clemente, Dale F. Hoffman, Robert T. Kelly, Milton E. Lloyd, Benjamin J. Matteo, Charles E. Parente, Jerome Rosenberg, Frederick A. Schwartz, Joseph Shaffer and Alvin Wilensky.

June 27



FALLS SCENE—Water was seven to 10 feet deep in portions of Falls, one of the hardest hit and least accessible areas

struck by the flood disaster. The community has been given top priority in relief efforts.

River Stages

This chart gives the river readings for June 24-26, showing the rapid rise that led to the most disastrous flood in the area's history:

Date	Time	Reading
Wed., June 21	10:00 p.m.	4.30
Thurs., June 22	7:00 a.m.	8.30
	4:30 p.m.	17.16
	10:00 p.m.	24.80
Fri., June 23	1:00 a.m.	28.90
	4:00 a.m.	32.30
	7:00 a.m.	35.38
	9:00 a.m.	36.70
	10:00 a.m.	37.20
	1:00 p.m.	38.50
	6:00 p.m.	37.50
Sat., June 24	10:00 p.m.	38.50
	9:30 a.m.	40.00
	1:30 p.m.	40.35
	7:00 p.m.	40.60 (crest)
Sun., June 25	10:00 p.m.	40.50
	7:00 a.m.	39.00
	1:00 p.m.	36.00
	8:00 p.m.	32.30
Mon., June 26	7:00 a.m.	24.22
	5:00 p.m.	19.82

June 29, 1972



The River won. The dike has been breached and volunteer sandbaggers in the area run for safety after orders were given to evacuate the area. The evacuation sirens were sounded at 11:14 a. m. These pictures were taken by Jack Walton of Wilkes-Barre, Associated Press employee, and were widely used in Saturday and Sunday editions of the AP.



These empty cots tell a story in themselves of the evacuees from the Wyoming Valley flood devastation are existing while waiting to return to whatever homes they may have. Men and women, children and pets are living together under the roof of Dallas Senior High School.

June 30, 1972

Historical Society's Basement Is Ruined

Basement area of Wyoming Historical and Geological Society is ruined, according to a report received from Ralph Hazeltine and S. Keene Mitchell.

An inspection of the site disclosed that the mine exhibit is intact. All other materials in the basement are waterlogged and about three inches of water remains on the basement floor. The report indicated that no windows in the building were broken and apparently flood waters did not reach the first floor.

Officials of the society propose to leave the building dry out for a few days until the front door

can be opened. At present the door is swollen shut and can be opened only by damaging it. Officials feel it is better to let the door dry out rather than force it open and leave the building exposed.

The society's rectory building had about 20 inches of water on the first floor and the only apparent damage is to the floors, which are badly buckled. Wall paper is damaged as far as the water level rose. There are no broken windows in the rectory building, the report indicates.

Officials feel it is better to let the water seep out than to try to pump it out.

June 29, 1972

Flood Death Toll Now 4

The known death toll in Wyoming Valley attributed to the flood rose Wednesday from one to four persons.

The three new fatalities, all male, were discovered in Kingston Borough Monday and Tuesday. Ages listed for two of the victims were 75 and 85.

Police reported one of the bodies was found in a car on East Walnut Street, while the other two were found at their

homes on Warren and North Dawes Avenue.

Authorities requested that the identities of the victims not be released since they were not sure whether or not the families had been notified.

The first victim was William Seiwel, 27, of 445 S. Hancock St., Wilkes-Barre, who fell from a boat and drowned on South Main Street, city, Saturday while attempting to rescue a woman stranded by the flood.

275 Bodies Washed Away From Forty Fort Cemetery Recovered; Plan Reburial

A total of 275 bodies, previously interred in the Forty Fort Cemetery but washed away by raging waters of the Susquehanna River, had been recovered by noon Thursday.

Chief Luzerne County Deputy Coroner Joseph Shaver said that the bodies, some of them still in burial vaults, were being transported to the Memorial Shrine Cemetery, Carverton, for re-interment.

Reports of "mass burials" were termed false by authorities who said that each of the bodies would be interred in its own, separate plot.

Identifiable bodies and burial vaults are being held at the Memorial Shrine Cemetery until survivors could be contacted relative to re-interment.

Unidentified bodies and

vaults were being re-interred at the Memorial Shrine Cemetery, Shaver reported.

The bodies and burial vaults were unearthed when the rain-swollen Susquehanna eroded away an approximately 150-foot long section of the Forty Fort Cemetery situated near a bend in the river. The hole carved into the earth by the flood waters is approximately 30 feet deep, it was reported, and extends westward into the cemetery to a point approximately 60 yards from the fence running along Wyoming Avenue.

The Forty Fort Cemetery, situated in a roughly-triangular area bounded by Wyoming Avenue, River Street and the Susquehanna, is one of the oldest cemeteries in the Wyoming Valley.

Osterhout Library Interior Suffered Extensive Damage

The Osterhout Free Library, 71 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, was another victim of the flood. Although the building, constructed in 1849, appears to have structurally withstood the raging destruction of the water, the interior of the building suffered extensive damage.

Elizabeth Hesser, head librarian, has indicated that approximately 70 percent of the 125,000 volumes have been destroyed. All periodicals housed in the basement of the Osterhout also were ravaged. Furniture, office equipment, microfilm readers and the card catalog system also have been lost.

The three branches of the Osterhout Free Library, located at 184 George Avenue, Wilkes-Barre; 2 Airy Street, Wilkes-Barre; and the Plains Municipal Building, Plains, were not directly affected by the flood and are trying to maintain regular services.

Although the Osterhout Free Library presently is in no condition to serve the citizens of Wilkes-Barre, the first step has been taken in rectifying the situation. The Library is hopeful that the community which the library has served will now help rebuild this integral part of our community.

7-6-72

Food Stamps Valued At \$644,486 Given 45,645 Victims Of Flood

Food stamps valued at more than \$600,000 have been given to over 45,000 local flood victims in the past week, Mrs. Rena Drury, acting executive director of Luzerne County Board of Assistance, reported Wednesday.

Mrs. Drury has been heading up the assistance office in Holy Saviour School, East End, since the office on North Pennsylvania Avenue at Union Street was flooded out.

She noted that emergency issuance of food stamps to flood victims in Luzerne and 46 other Pennsylvania counties has been authorized by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Applications are being accepted at the Holy Saviour School and 15 other locations throughout the region where field offices are being maintained to expedite the processing. The Department of Public Welfare official reported that no cash is needed to qualify for the emergency stamps.

Three Requirements

In order to qualify, she pointed out, a family must meet three requirements. It must reside within a designated disaster area, it must have cooking facilities, and must have suffered a reduction or inaccessibility of income or cash resources as a result of the disaster.

"Eligible persons will receive an allotment of food stamps at no cost covering the duration of the emergency," she pointed out. "For instance, a four-person household would be eligible for \$54 on the basis of a half-month issuance."

Here the statistics showing the number of households, number of persons receiving stamps and the value since June 27:

	Households	Persons	Amount
June 27	335	1,192	\$ 15,846
June 28	1,045	3,891	\$ 48,465
June 29	2,330	7,927	\$107,676
June 30	2,327	7,605	\$ 97,650
July 1	2,735	9,055	\$127,185
July 2	2,500	8,747	\$120,544
July 3	2,380	7,558	\$125,119

of her staff who have been operating sometimes around the clock to help the flood victims receive their food coupons. She also was appreciative of the co-operations received from Msgr. James Clarke, pastor of Holy Saviour, and from parishioners who aided the food stamp effort.

2 Breweries Ship Water In Cans Instead Of Beer, To Local Region

Breweries have responded to the drinking needs of Wyoming Valley by shipping in quantities of cans and bottles filled not with beer but with water.

The water supplies are being shipped into the area by Rheingold Breweries, Inc., and Budweiser.

Photo shows a fork lift being used to unload one of two 40-foot trailers of canned drinking water sent to the Kingston Township Municipal Building from Rhinegold distribution facilities in New Jersey. Budweiser also sent a 40-foot trailer loaded with bottled drinking water from some of its facilities in New Jersey.

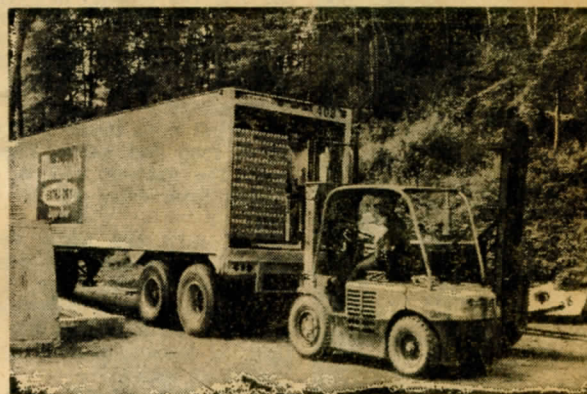
The drinking water sent into the Back Mountain area was unloaded by fork lifts from the Shavertown and Back Mountain Lumber Companies operated by Willard Hoover and David Ash.

The three trailer-loads of water were sent to the Kingston Township Municipal Building for distribution among the many flood refugees living in the Back Mountain area and to help alleviate water problems being encountered by residents whose normal supplies were adversely affected by the flood.

Other trailer-loads of water shipped into the Wyoming Valley by the out-of-town breweries went to similar distribution centers in widely scattered areas.

Rheingold shipped 100,000 12-ounce cans of water into this region last Thursday and announced it was sending an additional 100,000 cans early this

week. The water was airlifted out of Kennedy International Airport, New York, as part of the Wilkes-Barre Relief Drive organized by the Federal Aviation Administration flight controller staffs at Kennedy and MacArthur airports. The National Can Company, Long Island City, N. Y., is donating the metal containers in which Rheingold is shipping the water.



—Photo by Fay Broody

July
15

Flood Water Collapsed Home



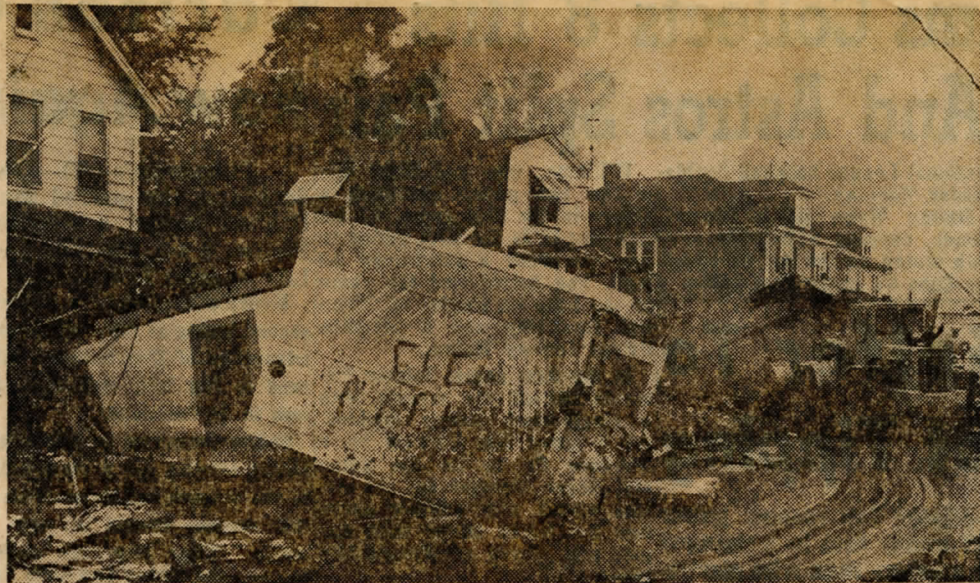
—Photo by Joe Barberio

A dwelling on Charles Street lies leveled after being knocked off its foundation by the raging flood waters.

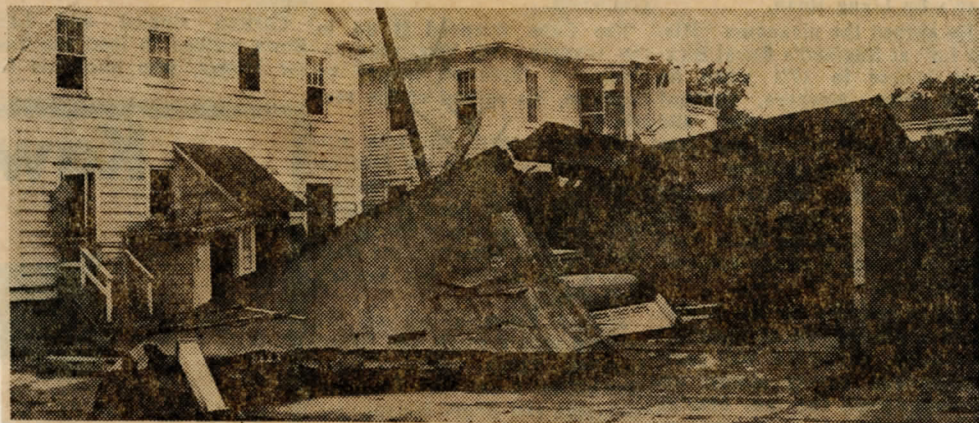
The three-story structure collapsed when struck by the waters which smashed through the dike on Riverside Drive. In similar condition were several other residences in the Riverside Drive-Charles Street area.

Chaos Greet Firwood Victims

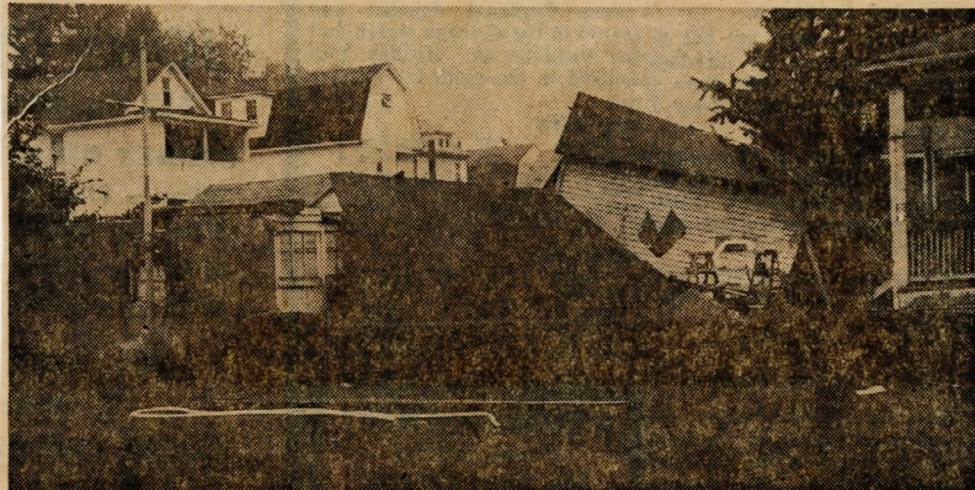
July 12,
1972



Rubbish still fills many of the streets in the City's Firwood Section. Many garages and tool sheds floated in the high water and smashed against other structures.

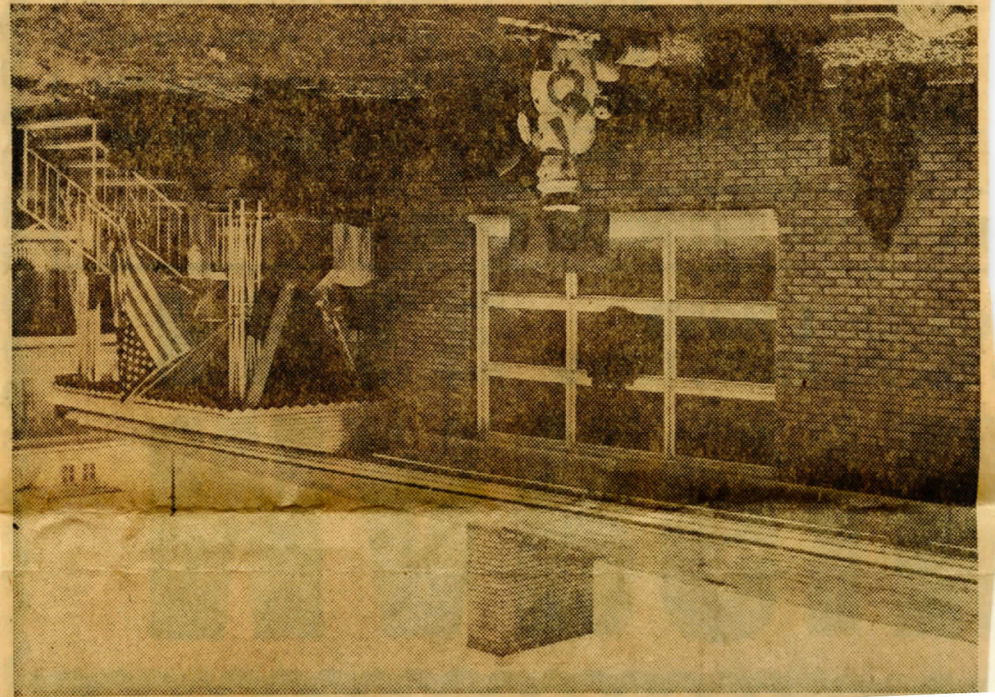


The flood's raging waters tore the roof from this garage on Plymouth Avenue, City. Forced by rushing waters to evacuate their homes, many residents left automobiles to the water's fury.

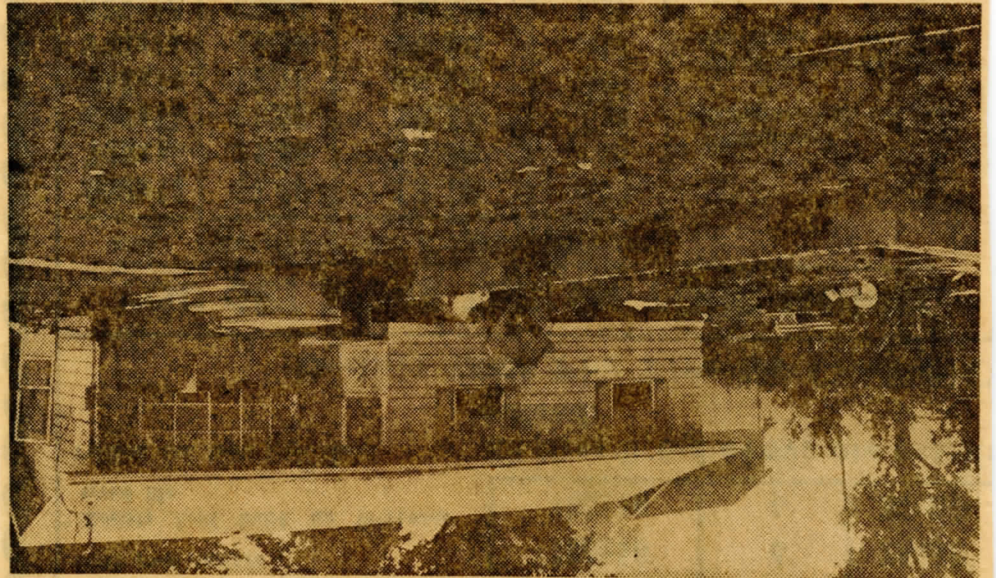


The Firwood Section of Wilkes-Barre was hardly recognizable to residents who returned to find strange garages and sheds in their yards. Many of the auxiliary buildings floated onto streets, where they came to rest after the water receded.

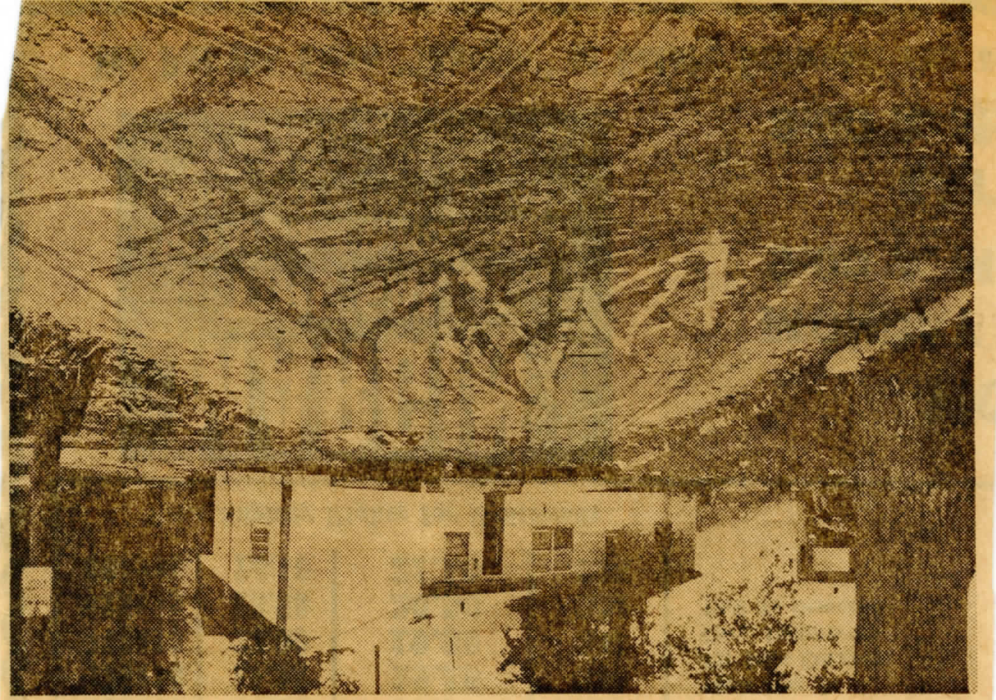




A plastic snowman holds a plea for help in front of this home on Plymouth Avenue, City. Water covered many single-story homes and entered the second story of larger homes in the City's Firwood Section.



This home, on the western end of Willow Street, City, was moved off its foundation. Several other homes of the same vintage were moved into the middle of streets in the Firwood Section of Wilkes-Barre.



A modern, one-story home sits plumb in the middle of Willow Street, City, after being hit by the merciless waters. A number of relatively new homes in the city's Firwood Section

Gov. Shapp Tours Flood Area



*July
13*

—Photo by Publiservices

Gov. Milton J. Shapp, showing concern for the flood-stricken of Wyoming Valley, made two tours of the area.

Gov. Shapp Sunday noted the most critical issue at present is housing and announced grants of \$7,000,000 to Wilkes-Barre and Luzerne County Redevelopment Authorities to be used for temporary housing.

At State Police Barracks, Wyoming, Gov. Shapp discusses problems with Rep. Fred Shupnik, Sen. Martin L. Murray and Congressman Daniel J. Flood.

Bulldozers Fill In Large Pits In Cemetery



*July
18*

This was a cemetery, prior to the onrush of Susquehanna River flood waters on June 23 and 24.

The pit, at the Forty Fort Cemetery, was a level plot of ground at one time and held thousands of graves. Many Burials were washed away by the flood waters which breached the dike.

—Photos by Joe Walsh

In the background, the levee has been restored to its original grade.

Bulldozers continue the task of filling in the large pit left in the cemetery. Flood waters washed away about one-third of the old burial ground. Some 750 bodies have been recovered to date over a widespread area.

July 17, 1972

Council Asking Federal Government Declare All Of Wilkes-Barre To Become 'Model City'

In a hastily arranged meeting, Wilkes-Barre City Council Saturday morning at 11 o'clock held a special emergency session in the office of the city manager at City Hall and passed a resolution requesting that the Federal government declare the entire City of Wilkes-Barre as a Model Cities city.

According to Robert Miscavage, executive director of the Wilkes-Barre Model Cities Agency, it was necessary to pass the resolution so that the city's request can be taken today to Washington, D. C., for presentation to George Romney, U. S. Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Romney reportedly will meet today with HUD regional directors from flood-ravaged areas of the Northeast.

The resolution, the only resolution passed at the quickly formed council session, noted "the ravaging effects of Tropical Storm Agnes blighted the all of the City of Wilkes-Barre and that both state and federal governments have identified the city as a major disaster area." As a result, the resolution noted, "it is necessary to develop and carry out a city-wide Model Cities program founded on new and imaginative proposals to combat social, physical and economic problems and to rebuild and revitalize municipal services and operations."

As a result, city council requests that these objectives be pursued through the Planned Variations Approach (variations of Model Cities plans and concepts) and that the executive director of the city agency coordinate activities toward this end.

A letter from Mayor Con Salwoski in regard to the proposed city-wide Model Cities approach also will accompany the resolution which will be directed to William B. Patterson, Philadelphia area director of HUD, for presentation in Washington, D. C.

Attending the special council session on Saturday were Councilmen Frank Trinisewski, Rev. William Reid, Joseph Williams, Mr. Salwoski, and Joseph Burns. Also in attendance were City Manager Bernard Gallagher, Mr. Miscavage, and Assistant City Solicitor Chester Muroski. Councilmen Robert Brader and Dr. Walter Z. Newman were absent. City Clerk Robert S. Foote had to be summoned from his home during the session so that he could properly document and record the resolution adopted by council during the emergency session.

During the meeting which lasted for about 1½ hours, council was considerably upset with the slowness in getting flood displaced persons into mobile homes sites within the city limits.

Councilman Trinisewski pointed out one example where a businessman established a six-space trailer park for him and his employees. The park, Trinisewski, said, has the trailers in place and all utilities are intact. However, Trinisewski said the flood displaced persons are not allowed in them "because some HUD inspectors have not yet gotten around to approve the site."

"It took HUD three weeks to get three families in trailers," Trinisewski complained. "How long will it take to get hundreds into these homes?"

Other councilmen complained there is a bog down somewhere in the trailer concept of HUD. City Manager Gallagher and Model Cities Director Miscavage were ordered to voice council's opinions and "get some direct answers" from Francis X. Tobin, flood disaster coordinator for the Office of Emergency Preparedness at a meeting today.

During the Saturday session, three representatives of Pennsylvania Gas and Water Company appeared and explained some of their problems being experienced in attempting to resume gas

service to various flood-affected areas of the city.

An engineer for the firm said the company is experiencing some water dips or back flowing or backfilling of water in gas lines which have already been purged.

The PG&W also informed council that the company is purging gas lines by placing a standpipe into the lines. The standpipe, which extends into the air above street level, is then ignited and gas and other impurities are burned in the open air. They said there is no danger of fire or explosion and city residents should not be alarmed.

The PG&W officials said they are purging gas lines in a systematic undertaking and that it is absolutely necessary to dig excavations along certain underground gas lines in order to detect "water dips" and eliminate them.

City Manager Gallagher was explicit in asking PG&W to cover any of its excavations—temporarily at least—with steel sheets so that traffic could travel over the street holes until such time as PG&W can backfill the excavations. At the same time, the city offered to close to traffic any block or section of city streets where traffic is hampering PG&W workmen in the process of emergency repairs to underground pipelines.

Affected By Gas Fumes; City Is Evacuated For Short Time

who were working in the vicinity cleaning up debris and mud were ordered to leave.

When the fumes were first detected at about 10:15 a. m., the area was deluged with State Police, Wilkes-Barre police and fire personnel, National Guardsmen and members of the State Police Crime Laboratory at the Wyoming Barracks along with Edward Pugh, Wilkes-Barre City's chief health officer.

The officials stayed at some distance from the building housing the chemicals until gas masks arrived from the Plymouth Armory, and the temporary police headquarters at Mackin School. Joseph Shaughnessy, director of aquatics for Wilkes-Barre City, also furnished four masks which he obtained from the Red Cross, where he had been assigned to work during the flood emergency.

Structure Entered

Approximately 15 officials at the scene, including city police and firemen along with State police chemists, entered the structure. Following an investigation, police chemists stated the leakage was not lethal. A short time later residents returned to their homes in that section.

Directing operations at the scene was Police Chief John Ruddick, who instructed his men to clear the area of all persons until an inspection was made. National Guardsmen aided in warning clean-up workers.

The chlorine gas scare caused some confusion as it was believed the whole city was initially to be evacuated. However, this was not the case.



July 1, 1972
TLEN

SIX Affected By Gas Fumes; City Area Is Evacuated For Short Time

Hundreds of persons who returned to their flood-ravaged homes in South Wilkes-Barre Friday morning to continue clean-up operations were ordered from their dwellings and out of the area a short time later when gas fumes were detected in the vicinity of the Master Chemical Company, 101 Carey Avenue.

In addition, six persons, who were involved in clean-up work at the chemical plant, were either overcome or affected by noxious fumes which were believed to have come from split chlorine tanks.

Admitted to the intensive care unit at the Wyoming Valley Hospital was Paul Dietrick, about 30, of 79 East Shawnee Avenue, Plymouth. Hospital attendants reported that he was in satisfactory condition.

5 Others Treated

Treated at the same hospital were:

Joseph Mitchneck, 24, of 213½ Spruce Street, Kingston.

John Clarke, 23, of 326 Bowman Street, Wilkes-Barre.

David Budnick, 22, of 233 Madison Street, Wilkes-Barre.

David Ellis, 18, of 67 Grove Street, Wilkes-Barre.

John Nackley, 20, of 76 Hutson Street, Wilkes-Barre.

The five young men were given inhalation therapy, received tetanus shots, had their eyes cleansed and also underwent chest X-rays.

They were taken to the hospital in a Master Chemical vehicle.

Affected Area

The area affected by the fumes covered the section from New Alexander to Wood Street and Carey Avenue to Old River Road. Persons

who were working in the vicinity cleaning up debris and mud were ordered to leave.

When the fumes were first detected at about 10:15 a. m., the area was deluged with State Police, Wilkes-Barre police and fire personnel, National Guardsmen and members of the State Police Crime Laboratory at the Wyoming Barracks along with Edward Pugh, Wilkes-Barre City's chief health officer.

The officials stayed at some distance from the building housing the chemicals until gas masks arrived from the Plymouth Armory, and the temporary police headquarters at Mackin School. Joseph Shaughnessy, director of athletics for Wilkes-Barre City, also furnished four masks which he obtained from the Red Cross, where he had been assigned to work during the flood emergency.

Structure Entered

Approximately 15 officials at the scene, including city police and firemen along with State police chemists, entered the structure. Following an investigation, police chemists stated the leakage was not lethal. A short time later residents returned to their homes in that section.

Directing operations at the scene was Police Chief John Ruddick, who instructed his men to clear the area of all persons until an inspection was made. National Guardsmen aided in warning clean-up workers.

The chlorine gas scare caused some confusion as it was believed the whole city was initially to be evacuated. However, this was not the case.



no were working in the vicinity cleaning up debris and mud were ordered to leave.

When the fumes were first detected at about 10:15 a. m., the area was deluged with State Police, Wilkes-Barre police and fire personnel, National Guardsmen and members of the State Police Crime Laboratory at the Wyoming barracks along with Edward Pugh, Wilkes-Barre City's chief health officer.

The officials stayed at some distance from the building housing the chemicals until gas masks arrived from the Plymouth Armory, and the temporary police headquarters at Mackin School. Joseph Maughnessy, director of aquatics for Wilkes-Barre City, also furnished four masks which he obtained from the Red Cross, where he had been assigned to work during the flood emergency.

Structure Entered

Approximately 15 officials at the scene, including city police and firemen along with State police chemists, entered the structure. Following an investigation, police chemists stated the leakage was not lethal. A short time later residents returned to their homes in that section.

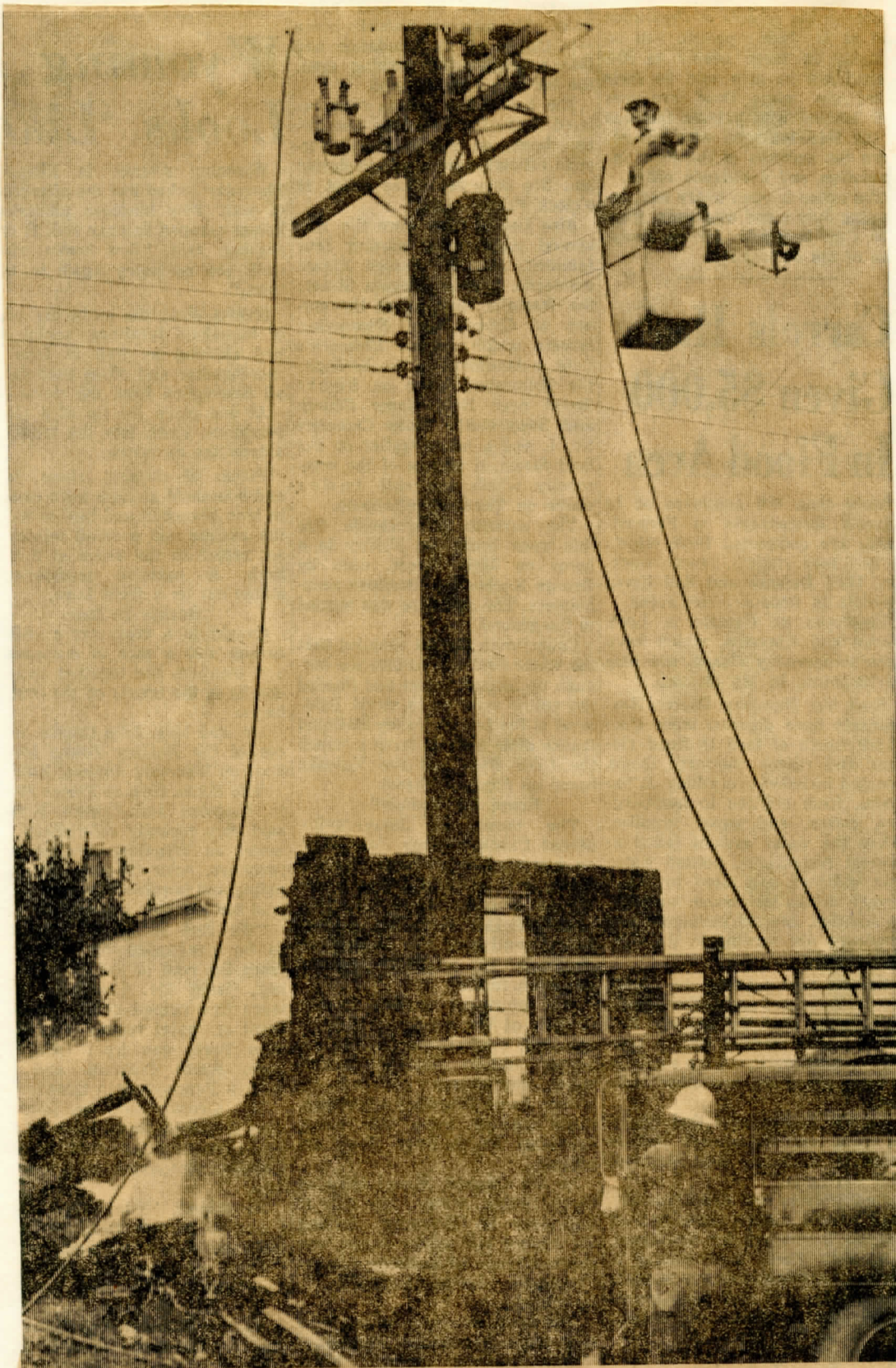
Directing operations at the scene was Police Chief John Ruddick, who instructed his men to clear an area of all persons until an inspection was made. National Guardsmen aided in warning clean-up workers.

The chlorine gas scare caused some confusion as it was believed the whole city was initially to be evacuated. However, this was not the case.



CHLORINE LEAK — Wilkes-Barre Firemen mask up in preparation for an attempt to stop the leakage of chlorine gas Friday from Master Chemicals, City. —Photo By Joe Walsh

July 1, 1972
TEN

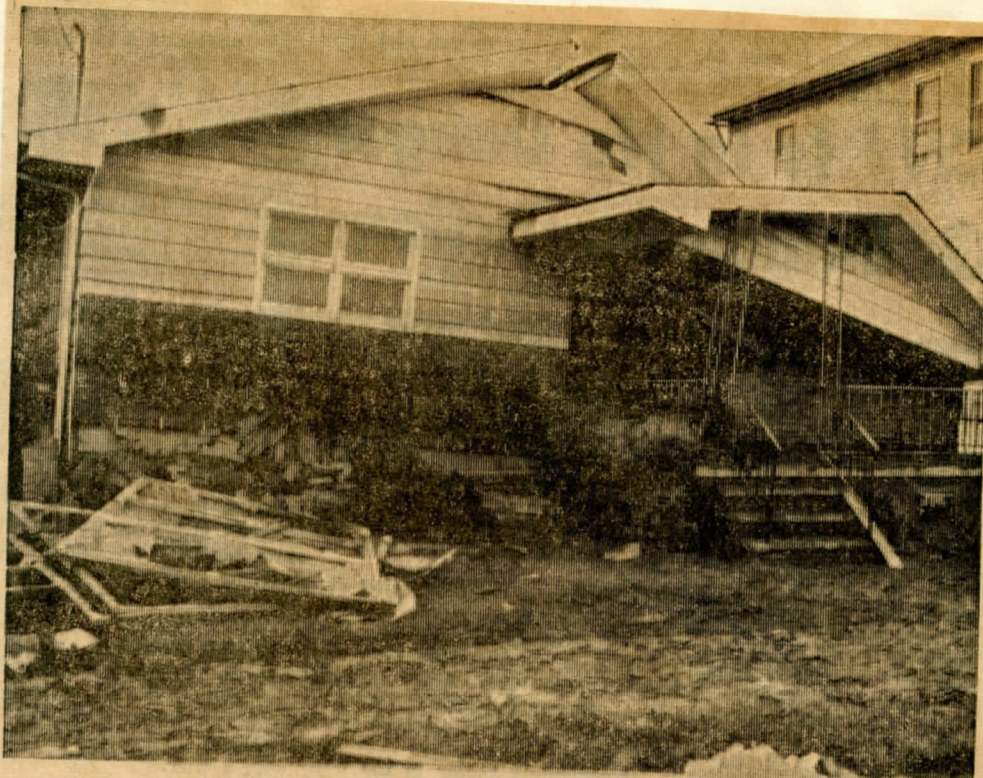


—Photo By Joe Walsh

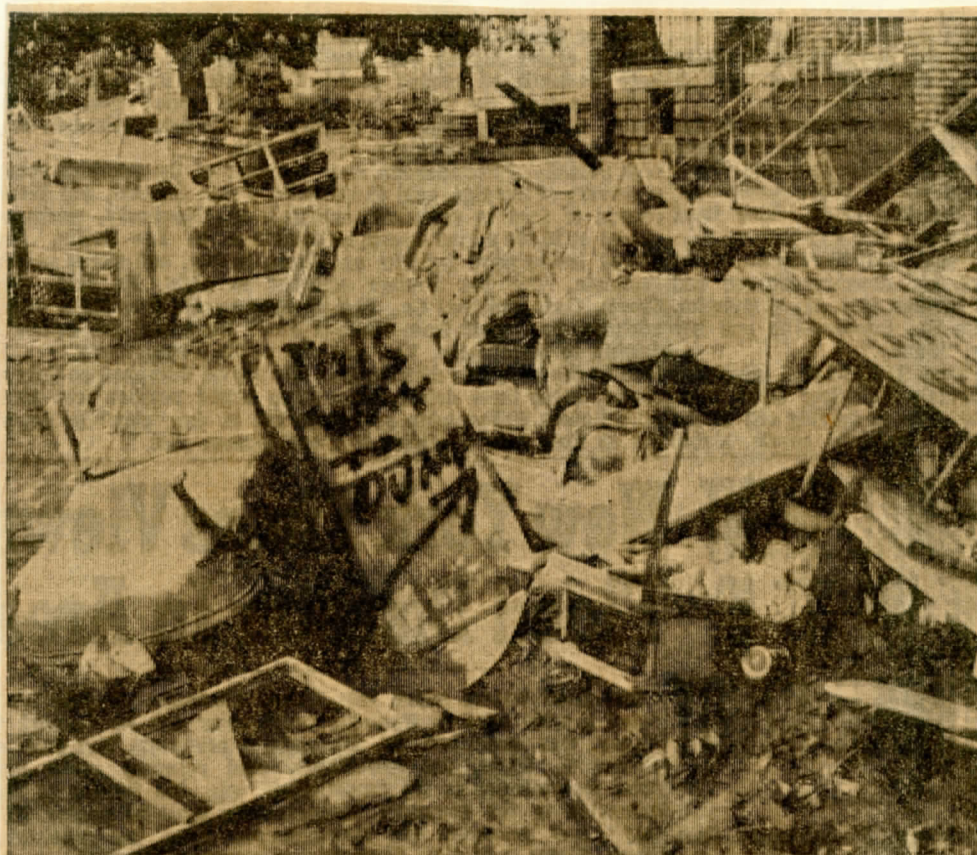
BURNED TO GROUND—A house used as an upholstery shop by George Koschos, Main Street, Swoyersville, burned to the ground Friday morning. It was the seventh fire of the week in that community.

July 1, 1972
TLEN

July 3, 1972 TLEN

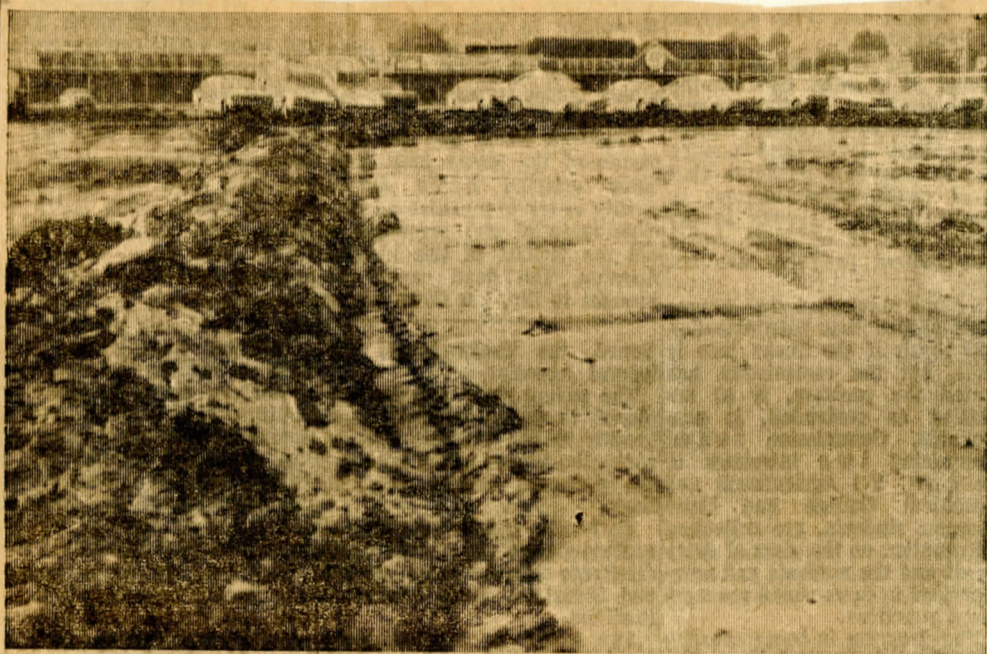


KINGSTON HOME SPLIT . . . Flood damage sustained by homes in Kingston is typified by this scene on South Gates Avenue. The home, residence of Cyril Rebarchik, was literally split down the middle when one side of the foundation collapsed.



DISGUST AND DESPAIR . . . The disgust and despair being felt by owners of flood-affected homeowners in the Wyoming Valley area is reflected in this sign in front of a home on South Welles Avenue, Kingston. The arrow points towards the home.

July 3, 1972
TLEN



NARROWS CENTER . . . A wall of mud separates sections of the huge parking lot at the Narrows Shopping Center in Edwardsville. Cars in the background, some partially on top of others, had been stored in the lot before the flood hit.

Sixth Drowning Victim Found In Yard At South Wilkes-Barre

The body of an unidentified young man, possibly a utility worker, was found Saturday afternoon in the rear yard of a home in the South Wilkes-Barre section of Wilkes-Barre.

It was the sixth drowning death recorded by the Luzerne County Coroner's office and State Police at Wyoming Barracks since the flood waters inundated the area.

Discovering the body in the rear yard of the home of Edward Hoban, 211 Oak St., was Tex Oblen, 51 Miller St., Wallington, N. J. He was in the area helping his sister, Mrs.

Otto Backof of 97 Oak St., in cleaning up her flood-ravaged dwelling. The body was discovered at 3 p. m.

Sgt. William Layden of the Wilkes-Barre Police Department was dispatched to the scene and aided in the investigation along with Walter Lisman, deputy county coroner.

The body was taken to the Sweetland Home, Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, where a temporary morgue has been established.

Police said the body was attired in a yellow rain suit and possibly could have been that of a utility worker. The victim had

been washed into the backyard by the flood waters.

No identification was on the body but police have several leads and identification should be known shortly.

Other drowning victims recovered thus far from the regional tragedy included John Metronick, a caretaker at 71 N. Dawes Ave., Kingston; Harold K. Herring, 653 Westmoreland Ave., Kingston; William Seiwel, 445 S. Hancock St., Wilkes-Barre; Ross J. Noble, RD 5 Towanda, and John G. Morris, 624 Warren Ave., Kingston.



TRACKS SUSPENDED . . . The force of water washed under these railroad tracks between Forty Fort and Kingston

in Forty Fort leaving the tracks suspended in midair and effectively severing railroad passage.

(Photo by Fay L. Broody)

July 3, 1972
TLEN



(Photo by Fay L. Broody)

ROOF THROWN TO GROUND . . . The roof of a building from a nearby structure was tossed to the sidewalk along

Wyoming Avenue, in Kingston near Vaughn Street. Other debris from the flood is trapped against utility poles.

July 3, 1972 TLEN

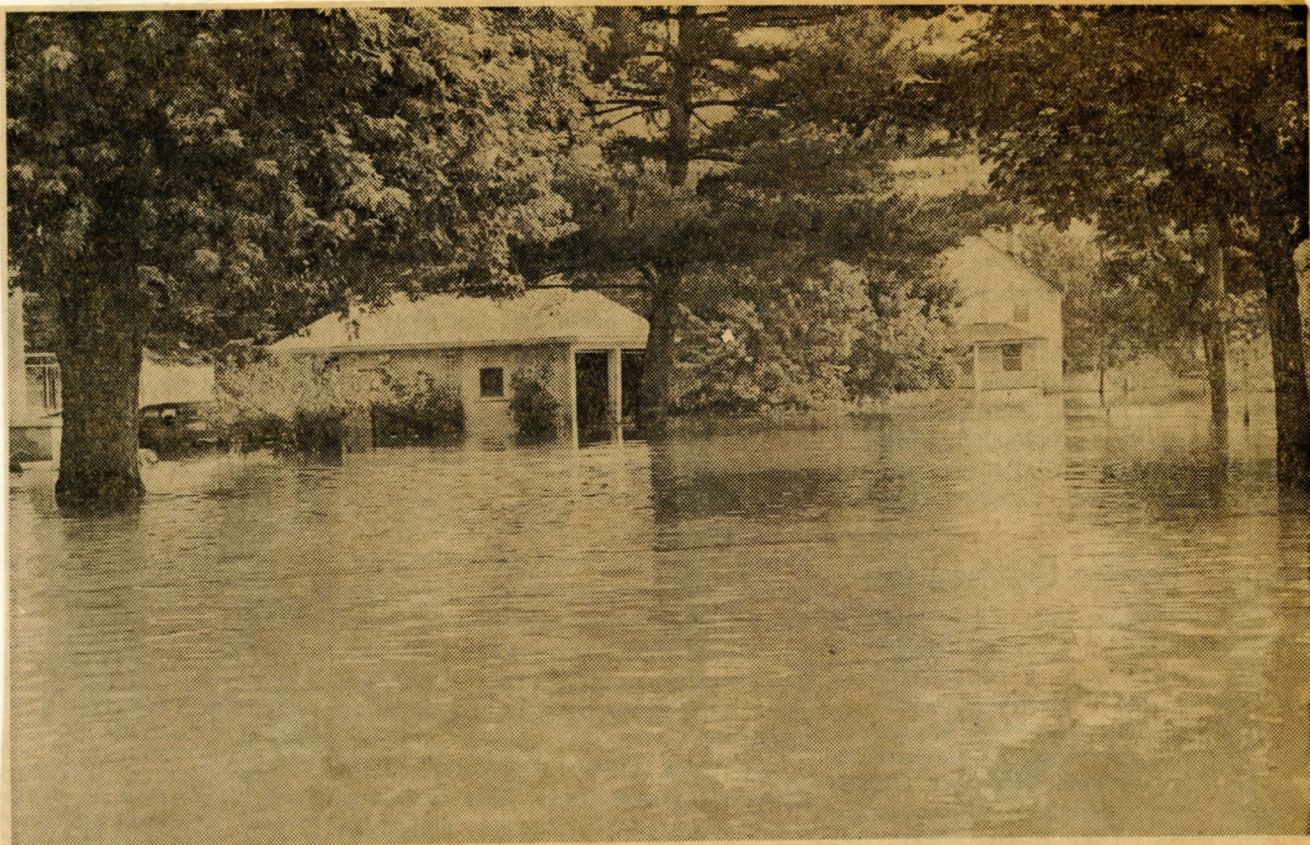


(Photo by Jack Walton)

MOUNTAIN OF DEBRIS . . . A bulldozer tackles a mountain of flood debris hauled to a special landfill pit created off Mundy Street, Wilkes-Barre. The pit, near the former East Side Landfill Authority site, was filled in 48 hours.

The landfill was created by the State Department of Environmental Resources to augment regular dumping sites. State and National Guard personnel assisted in the dumping operations.

July 3, 1972
TLEN



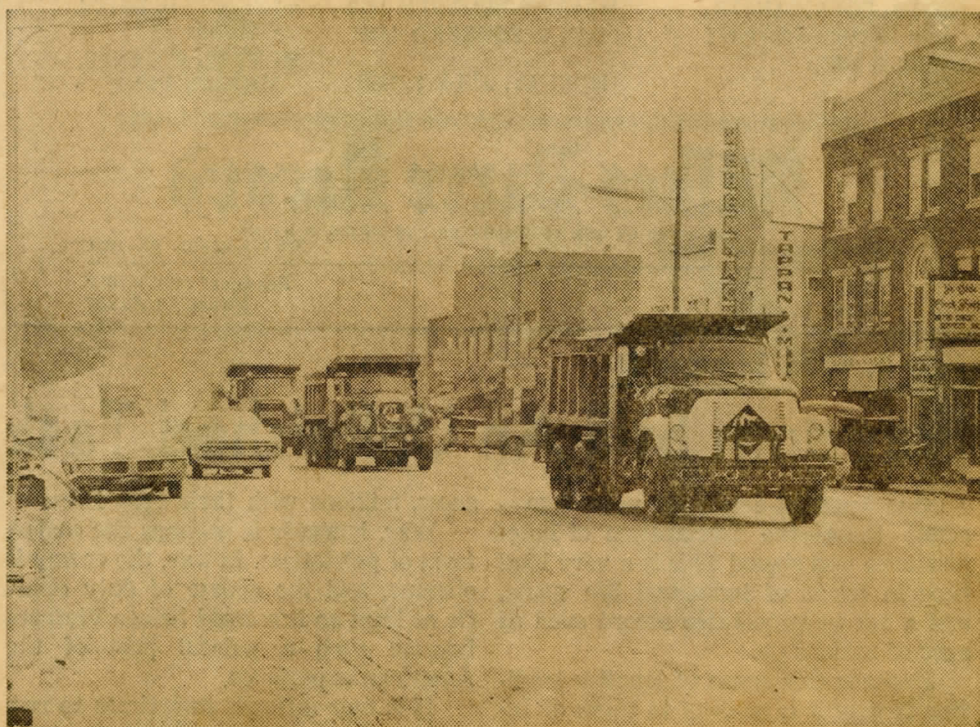
WATER REMAINS — A week after the Susquehanna had spilled over its banks to ravage the Wyoming Valley area, some areas were still under water. This was the

scene Saturday at Shoemaker and White Streets in Swoyersville Borough.

July 3, 1972 TLEN

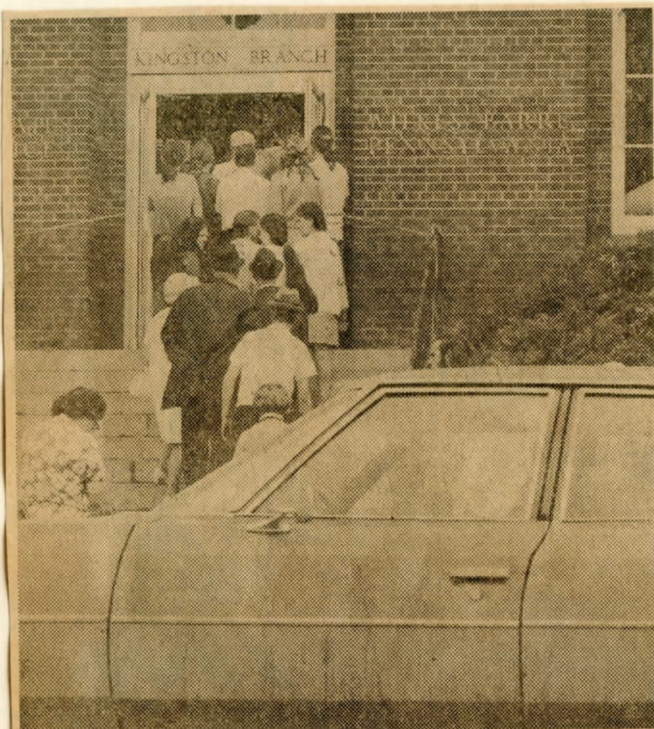
MONDAY, JULY 3, 1972

West Side Streets



TRUCKS ROLL — Heavy trucks, laden with debris from areas hard-hit by flooding, rolled up Wyoming Avenue in Kingston as massive clean-up operations were begun on the West Side.

July 3, 1972



MAIL PICKUP — Lines of West Side residents are shown waiting outside the Kingston Post Office on Wyoming Avenue to pick up mail which went undelivered because of flood waters.



KINGSTON CORNERS . . . Debris littered the curbline at Kingston Corners in the wake of the flood. This picture was

taken looking up Wyoming Ave. after the Susquehanna River waters receded from their height.

(Photo by Fay L. Broody)

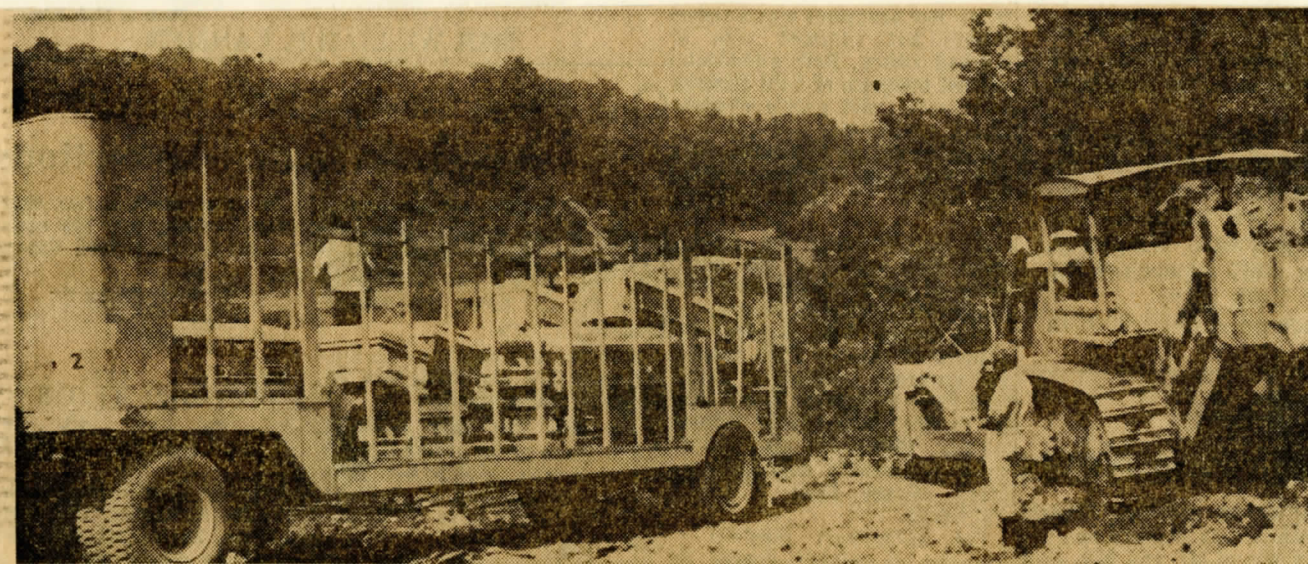
July 3, 1972



HEAVY TRUCK TRAFFIC . . . Trucks line up on Main Street Larksville, en route to the West Side Landfill Authority site on the Larksville Mountain
The muddy mountain road made travel difficult. Truck

(Photo by Jack Walton)

drivers had problems maintaining traction. Also, many trucks began breaking down due to long hours of use hauling refuse.



NEW CASKETS DUMPED . . . New caskets ruined by flood waters are dumped at the East Side Landfill Authority site in Plains Township. The large bulldozer covered the caskets and debris of all types with dirt.

(Photo by Jack Walton)

As many as four bulldozers were in operation at the various landfills, covering such expensive items as color televisions, stereos, living room suites, foodstuffs and personal belongings.



GENERAL OBSERVES — Maj. Gen. John J. Remetta, East Area commander of the Pennsylvania National Guard, took to a jeep Saturday to tour flood-damaged areas of the West Side and personally view the damage. He is shown here, at left, on a tour through Swoyersville.



WESTSIDE LANDFILL . . . The personal losses of thousands of people pile up at the West Side landfill. Here, three trucks dump their loads at the same time as a bull-

(Photo by Jack Walton)
Some trucks were delayed at the landfills when large items would not fall through tailgates. Truck drivers then

July
3, 1972



WATER STILL DEEP—Vehicles still had to drive through hubcap-deep water to negotiate Shoemaker Street, Swyersville, on Saturday. Large, deep pools remained at various

places in the borough and elsewhere in the valley a week after the Susquehanna began its rampage.



FORTY FORT CLEANUP — National Guardsmen from the western part of the State are shown loading debris

thrown out of flood-wrecked homes in the area of the Pettebone School in Forty Fort.

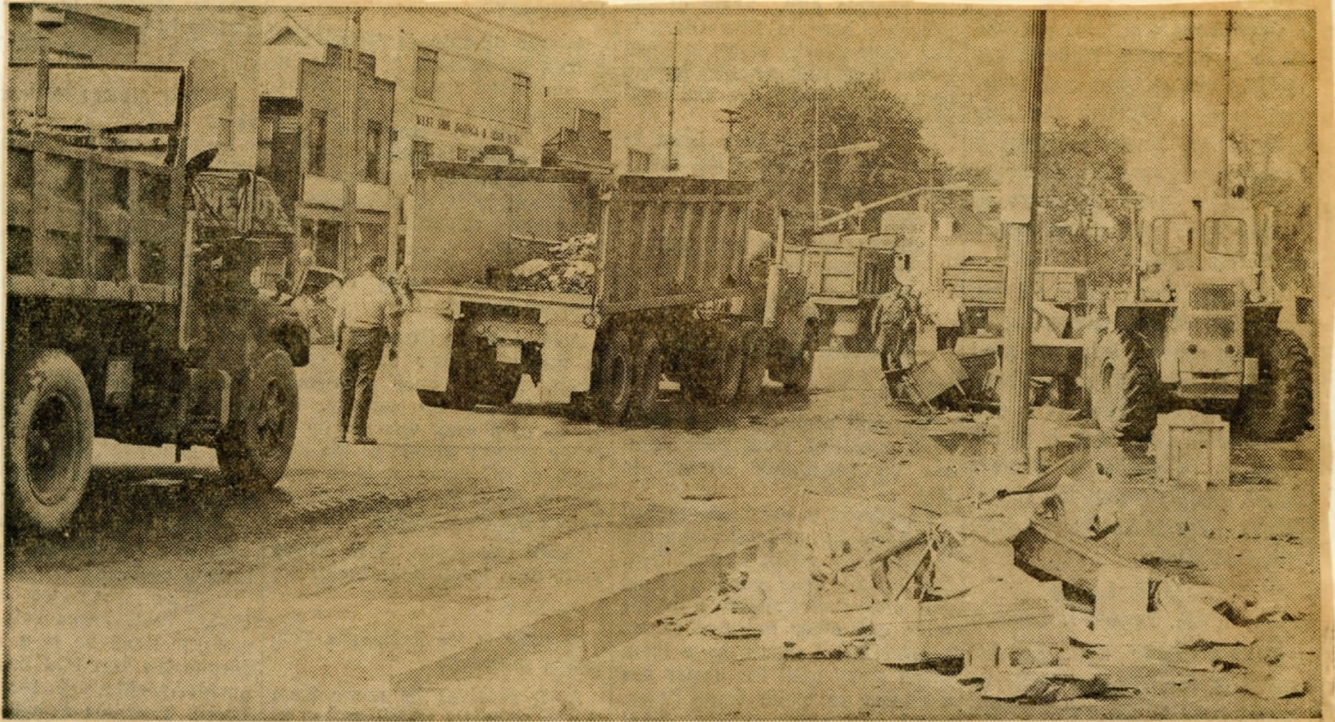


EARTHMOVERS USED — These large earthmovers, shown here on Wyoming Avenue in Forty Fort, were among the pieces of heavy equipment pressed into service to clean mud and debris on the West Side.



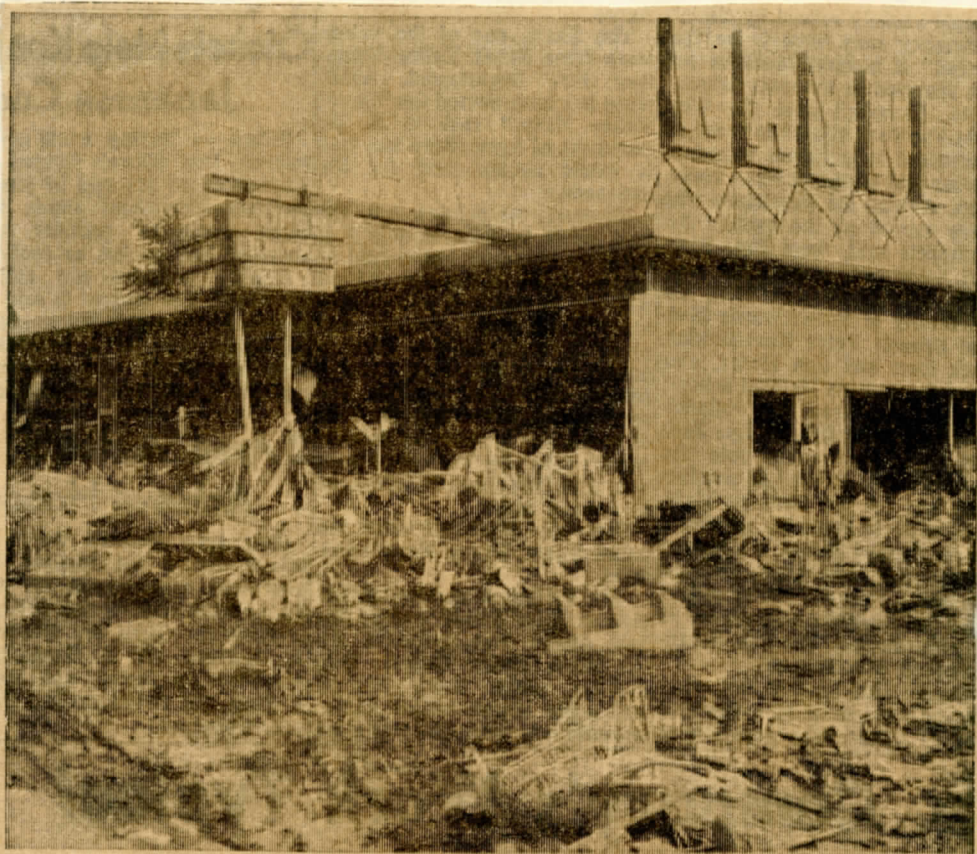
ARMY CONVOY — Truckloads of National Guardsmen are shown assembled on Market Street, in front of the Kingston Armory, prior to being assigned to clean-up duties on the West Side.

July
3, 1972



WYOMING AVENUE CLEANUP — Heavy trucks and front-end loaders became numerous on Wyoming Avenue and elsewhere throughout the West Side this weekend as massive

flood clean-up operations went into full scale. This line-up of trucks developed at Kingston Corners.

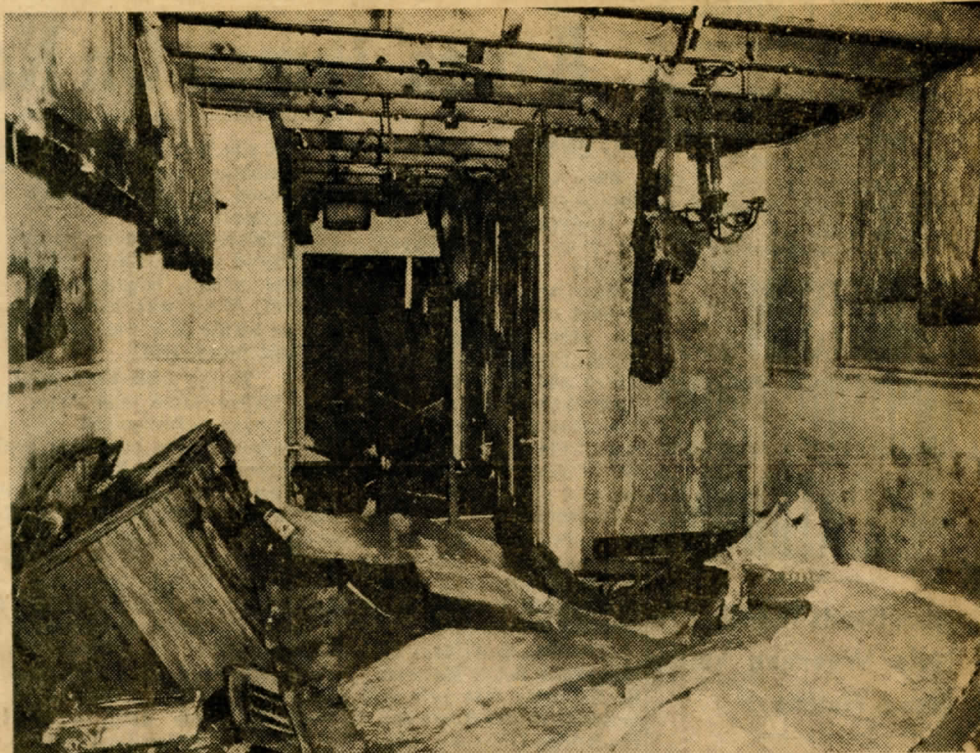


WEST SIDE BUSINESS . . . Mounds of debris surround the Wayne Department Store in Edwardsville, one of numerous West Side business places hard hit by the flood.

—Curtis Sadonick Photo

July 3, 1973

Here Is What Families Found In Flood-Ravaged Homes



Typical of the flood damage sustained by numerous homes in the Wyoming Valley area these scenes of the interior of the Mr. and Mrs. Robert Metz residence, 447 N. Gates Ave., Kingston.

The photo at top shows debris and damage left behind by flood waters in the dining room area of the Metz home.

The kitchen of the dwelling, with its ceiling destroyed by the water and everything else damaged and covered by mud, is shown in the bottom photo.



July 3, 1972

LIBRARY LOSS ESTIMATED AT \$2 MILLION

Osterhout Librarian Says
85,000 Books, Magazines Destroyed

Look forward rather than glance back at the damages was the view of Osterhout Free Library personnel yesterday.

Osterhout Free Library, 71 S. Franklin St., was one of the many public facilities in the path of the ravaging Susquehanna River and in the aftermath there appears to be damages estimated at \$2,000,000.

Monday, Elizabeth Hesser, head librarian, with her assistant, Catherine Corgan, and public relations director, Madeleine Grant, were directing clean-up operations at the South Franklin Street facility.

The woman, attired in work-clothes, boots and gloves emphasized the important thing is to get going again to serve the public rather than expressing concern about damages.

The flood water filled the basement and covered about four feet of the first floor of the building which was erected in 1849 as First Presbyterian Church. In 1889 the free library was established in the church building under terms of the will of Isaac Osterhout.

Everything in the basement and almost everything on the first floor was damaged.

It is estimated about 85,000 books and magazines have been destroyed. Also destroyed were all files of magazines, equipment and furniture. About 30 per cent of the volumes housed in the library was salvagable.

Miss Hesser has submitted this estimate of damages to Atty. John McCormack, Bureau of Library president, who is experiencing his personal problems because his property was flooded: \$850,000 will be needed to replace the volume collection, \$250,000 to replace damaged furniture and equipment and \$900,000 for building repairs.

Final figure is contingent upon inspection of the building to determine the exact damages. Total estimate of damages suffered by the flood is about \$2,000,000.

Three branches of Osterhout



BOOKS DESTROYED—Thousands of books from shelves of the flood-struck Osterhout Free Library, 71 S. Franklin St., lie thrown on the pave in front of the library waiting to be

hauled to a dumping ground. Water mark is evident on lamp standard in left of picture. —Photo by Publisher
Photo by Publisher

are operating normally. They are at 2 Airy St., 184 George Ave. and Plains Municipal Building.

Osterhout Free Library asked that anyone with borrowed books should hold them until the library reopens and fines will not be levied. Those with damaged books are asked to make a report on them for library records and no costs will be assessed.

Despite its condition of despair

July 3, 1972

phasized the important thing is to get going again to serve the public rather than expressing concern about damages.

The flood water filled the basement and covered about four feet of the first floor of the building which was erected in 1849 as First Presbyterian Church. In 1889 the free library was established in the church building under terms of the will of Isaac Osterhout.

Everything in the basement and almost everything on the first floor was damaged.

It is estimated about 85,000 books and magazines have been destroyed. Also destroyed were all files of magazines, equipment and furniture. About 30 per cent of the volumes housed in the library was salvagable.

Miss Hesser has submitted this estimate of damages to Atty. John McCormack, Bureau of Library president, who is experiencing his personal problems because his property was flooded: \$850,000 will be needed to replace the volume collection, \$250,000 to replace damaged furniture and equipment and \$900,000 for building repairs.

Final figure is contingent upon inspection of the building to determine the exact damages. Total estimate of damages suffered by the flood is about \$2,000,000.

Three branches of Osterhout

of the flood-struck Osterhout Free Library, 71 S. Franklin St., lie thrown on the pave in front of the library waiting to be

lamp standard in left of picture.

—Photo by
Photo by

are operating normally. They are at 2 Airy St., 184 George Ave. and Plains Municipal Building.

Osterhout Free Library asked that anyone with borrowed books should hold them until the library reopens and fines will not be levied. Those with damaged books are asked to make a report on them for library records and no costs will be assessed.

Despite its condition of deppair, the library proved to be of some service last week. Guardsmen assigned to duty in Wilkes-Barre were in need of movie films for entertainment at nights and fortunately, the films were stored on the second floor which was not damaged by the flood.

July 3, 1972

July 5, 1972

July 6, 1972

The welfare system and the tax systems haven't actually been changed yet, but it is certain now that they will be. The difference the next President

as Started

Humphrey's Plan — Hubert Humphrey has acknowledged to friends that I will take a political miracle to stop George McGovern from winning the Democratic presidential nomination next month. But the happy political warrior said he will stay in the race as long as the labor leaders and party regulars think there's a chance. They will put him in a position, he told friends, to lead the McGovern foes into McGovern's camp and unite the Democratic party. He plans to tell them: "I stuck with you to the end. Now let's together join George McGovern in defeating President Nixon in November."

Security Crackdown — Defense Secretary Mel Laird has ordered a crackdown on military leaks. While he paid lip service to the public's right to know, he told subordinates that he wanted "rigid" protection of classified information. He was "particularly concerned," he said, "about the disclosure of intelligence in the Defense Department is entitled to protect some secrets. But more often than not, the classification system is used to hide errors and embarrassments.

Washington Whirl

Flood

Tobacco Exports Gain

New York — U. S. exports of tobacco products in 1971 advanced over 1970 to \$684 million but fell short of the 1969 record of \$696 million.

He also announced that the 435 member banks of the association have been asked to help flood victims by making low interest loans with extended repayment privileges, waiving penalties, delinquent and service charges on loans overdue, and extending payments on loans. The banks were also asked to disseminate financial assistance information in disaster areas. PBA President M. A. Cance here, chairman of Western Pennsylvania National Bank Pittsburgh, said the association is in contact with state and federal banking and other agencies to determine how banks outside flood areas can help. He said the flood can have "serious short and long range consequences for the economy of the entire state" and for thousands of victims. Many banking offices are still closed, but emergency stopgap procedures are taking care of customer needs, he said.

RED CROSS HAS 36 AID SHELTERS

16,000 Being Fed At Stations Set Up For 30 Days

American Red Cross has set up 36 disaster shelters in devastated Wyoming Valley which are being used to house and feed approximately 4,600 people.

ARC officials said 16,000 persons additionally are being fed in these shelters which in all probability, they said, will be open for at least 30 days.

In addition to the feeding at the shelters, officials reported, canteen, or feeding trucks, are moving through the region feeding workers, Army personnel, firemen and policemen. These trucks are equipped with sandwiches, coffee, milk and water.

Some 170 staff members and volunteers from practically the entire country, and volunteers are in charge of the shelters. Aiding the staff members and volunteers are approximately 400 volunteers from within the area.

The ARC headquarters are set up in the Palmer School Building in the Rolling Mill Hill area, along with the Boyd Dodson School on Airy Street and Mackin School in East End.

Officials said the ARC has presently serviced some 10,000 families. These families were interviewed by ARC case workers in nine service centers.

Ed Gully, who was sent into the region by national headquarters in Washington, D. C., is director of disaster operations, assisted by Deputy Director Sherman Fant, Houston, Tex., also sent in from national headquarters in Washington, D. C.

Ron Elliott, community activities representative for the Boston chapter of the ARC, also is stationed at the Palmer school.

Elliott said most of the volunteers who came into the region represent various states across the country. He said some of them are on vacation or took leaves of absence from their jobs. Some, he said, are college students who left their classes in various states to help out in the region for several weeks.

Although the amount of money being spent in the region by ARC is not available at this time, national headquarters estimated the loss in the Middle Atlantic States at \$15,000,000, with the greater portion of the damage being in the Wyoming Valley area.

Michael Lanigan, director of Red Cross disaster operations with headquarters at the Palmer School, said, "Our primary job here is to provide needed assistance to flood victims as quickly as humanly possible. One of

CONFLICTING WATER STATUS REPORTS MADE

Continue Boiling, Says Department Of Environmental Resources

Efforts were made Wednesday to clear up conflicting statements regarding the need to boil water for drinking in areas directly affected by the flood and the fringe areas. According to State Department of Environmental Resources, the latest information is to continue boiling drinking water.

Pennsylvania Gas and Water Company released a statement, however, which pointed out that the company has maintained water pressures of 40 pounds or higher on east side of the river with water meeting U. S. Public Health drinking standards for bacteriological quality. However, the PG&W did not specifically mention whether or not it is advisable to boil drinking water.

A check was made on Wednesday at the temporary office of Department of Environmental Resources and a spokesman for water quality section stated that his department is the only one agency to make a determination regarding water standards and not the PG&W or U. S. Public Health Service.

Questioned as to the specific areas where boiling of drinking water should be carried out, the department spokesman replied that those communities directly affected by the flood and communities in the fringe area are included.

Municipalities included in the fringe areas are Pittston, Plains, Wilkes-Barre Township, Ashley, Sugar Notch, all of Hanover Township, Nanticoke and Newport Township on the east side of the river and communities on west side of the river from West Pittston to West Nanticoke which are served by PG&W lines.

The state agency said Mountaintop also is served by PG&W lines, but quality is of a higher standard and the directive to boil water for drinking is not

chapter of the ARC, also is stationed at the Palmer school.

Elliott said most of the volunteers who came into the region represent various states across the country. He said some of them are on vacation or took leaves of absence from their jobs. Some, he said, are college students who left their classes in various states to help out in the region for several weeks.

Although the amount of money being spent in the region by ARC is not available at this time, national headquarters estimated the loss in the Middle Atlantic States at \$15,000,000, with the greater portion of the damage being in the Wyoming Valley area.

Michael Lanigan, director of Red Cross disaster operations with headquarters at the Palmer School, said, "Our primary job here is to provide needed assistance to flood victims as quickly as humanly possible. Our efforts, like those of all agencies, involved in relief operations, have been hampered by lack of communications and building space in which to house our operations."

Lanigan said to enable flood victims to return to some semblance of normal living, the Red Cross is providing assistance in the form of food, clothing, rent, transportation, some basic furnishings, household needs, medical and health needs, cleaning supplies, minor temporary repairs to enable a family to move back into its home, occupational supplies and other emergency needs.

This assistance is given on a standardized basis, varying solely in relationship to the size of the family and ages of the person involved. All such Red Cross disaster aid is free of charge, as an outright gift from the American public through United Fund and Red Cross fund campaigns, officials said.

Approximately 150 persons, young and old, are sheltered at the Dodson School, which is in charge of Charlotte Donnelly, RN, Red Cross nurse.

She said they are serving 300 to 350 meals three times a day. She said those being housed at the school, in addition to the 109th Artillery, had their homes destroyed in the flood or those who are cleaning up their homes in an effort to get back into the dwellings.

Assisting Mrs. Donnelly is Richard Trinci, Schenectady, N. Y., who was sent into the area from his home chapter. He has been at the school since Monday, June 26.

Mrs. Donnelly and Trinci said they have ample food and medical supplies. Those at the school are sleeping on cots in the various classrooms.

As an example of how smoothly the operation is going at the Dodson School and the harmony that prevails, a party was held yesterday afternoon for three persons on their birthdays. A large birthday cake was brought in for the celebration.

regarding water standards and not the PG&W or U. S. Public Health Service.

Questioned as to the specific areas where boiling of drinking water should be carried out, the department spokesman replied that those communities directly affected by the flood and communities in the fringe area are included.

Municipalities included in the fringe areas are Pittston, Plains, Wilkes-Barre Township, Ashley, Sugar Notch, all of Hanover Township, Nanticoke and Newport Township on the east side of the river and communities on west side of the river from West Pittston to West Nanticoke which are served by PG&W lines.

The state agency said Mountaintop also is served by PG&W lines, but quality is of a higher standard and the directive to boil water for drinking is not being enforced there.

Taking Samples

Department of Environmental Resources is continually taking water samples and will announce when and where the boiling practice is lifted.

Latest status regarding pressures and quality of water was issued Tuesday by Pennsylvania Gas and Water Company for benefit of water customers on both east and west sides of the Susquehanna River.

Those on the east side of the river are being informed that throughout the flood disaster period water pressures have been maintained at 40 pounds or higher with water meeting U. S. Public Health drinking standards for bacteriological quality. The company expects to maintain this quality standard and will be the first to announce a boiling water requirement if these standards are not met in the entire area east of the river, including the City of Wilkes-Barre.

West of the river, the system has been damaged by two breaks on a 30-inch filtered water, 20-million-gallon-per-day supply from the Hillside Filter Plant at Kingston Township. This line has been kept in service by making temporary repairs to it under pressure. As a result this line has been supplying 12-million-gallons-per-day of quality water to the West Side, but at a pressure of only 30 to 40 pounds. This lowered pressure has resulted in certain areas such as in Courtdale, White Rock Terrace, the upper parts of Larksville, Luzerne and Swoyersville, which have not been damaged by the flood, being out of water. Luzerne and Swoyersville are presently being fed water by temporary pump installations. The other areas were expected to be taken care of by Wednesday from a temporary 2,600-foot.

Even on the west side of the Susquehanna with a water use of more than double the normal, the company said it has maintained pressures from 20 pounds or higher and has not curtailed use of water to the stricken victims of the flood in their clean-up operations.

Keep Boiling Drinking Water, Residents Told

Keep boiling your drinking water!

This advice was given again today to area residents by the State Department of Environmental Resources.

Paul Koval, operations director of the Bureau of Water Quality, said daily samples show the water is improving but there are still many leaks into public water systems.

"Until we get those leaks patched, we don't want to take a chance. Continue boiling drinking water," he said.

Mr. Koval said 100 samples are taken daily on the Pennsylvania Gas and Water Company system, and 500 samples are taken in the five-county flood area of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

In a related development, two 5,000-gallon tankers were put into use Monday night at 10:30 at the Roushey Well to provide chlorinated, filtered water for customers of the Shavertown Water Company.

Mr. Koval said three 3,000-gallon portage storage tanks also will be used to augment larger tankers. Water from the tankers is pumped directly into the company system, he said.

July 5, 1972



HIGH WATER MARK AT PITTSTON . . Joseph Azarovich, Towpath Court, Pittston, left, checks remnants of prized possessions which he collected for many years and which were damaged by flood waters which invaded his residence and surrounding houses.

July 6, 1972

STATE AGENCY ISSUES RULES TO EATERIES

Flood - Affected Places Must Have Inspection Before Reopening

A list of instructions has been issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources to restaurants, cafes and retail stores concerning their services and relations with customers.

All food establishments, cafes, restaurants, and retail outlets, which have been affected by flood waters must remain closed to the public until the premises and facilities have been inspected and approved by a representative of either the Department of Environmental Resources or the Department of Agriculture.

The water supplies and food supplies in these establishments are potentially dangerous and must not be used until they have been checked.

The two departments are coordinating a complete surveillance program of all food establishments in flood areas, and all affected establishments will be inspected at the earliest possible opportunity.

Owners or operators of affected food establishments should contact the nearest office of the Department of Environmental Resources—342-4869, Department of Agriculture—836-2181, or their local Health Department to make arrangements for inspections.

Food establishments, cafes, restaurants, and retail outlets which have not been flooded but are users of public water that requires boiling must adhere to the following operations until the supply is fully approved:

1. Do not serve water to public.
2. Sanitize all multi-use utensils in a sanitizing solution prepared according to directions on the product.
3. Use a sanitizing solution to clean all food preparation surfaces.
4. Use paper service as much as possible.

July 6, 1972

JULY 5, 1972

Nesbitt May Not Return To Kingston For 2 To 3 Weeks

Nesbitt Memorial Hospital personnel are estimating that it will be two to three weeks before they can evacuate the medical center established at College Misericordia and return to their facilities in Kingston.

According to a hospital bulletin, three things must be accomplished before the hospital can return to Kingston. The facility has to be thoroughly cleaned; power must be restored; and a

sewage system established. All three problems are being attacked by hospital personnel and area utilities.

In regard to flood damage, most of the destruction occurred in the basement area, including the loss of some supplies that could not be carried out in time and kitchen facilities. The hospital's new rectilinear scanner from Radiology was saved, according to the bulletin.

No dollar estimate of damage can be given until the basement is entirely pumped out.

In the meantime, the hospital continues to function in its emergency quarters located in Alumnæ Hall, a girls' dormitory at College Misericordia. Emergencies are being treated in a fully functioning Emergency Room established in the basement of the facility as 95-bed patients occupy other sections of the hospital. A Cardiac Care Unit and Intensive Care Unit have also been established.

In tribute to the obstetrics section of the Medical Facility at College Misericordia, 12 babies have been delivered to date with babies and mothers doing fine.

Volunteers Sought

Nesbitt has put out an urgent request for volunteers to help restore the hospital facility.

Volunteers are requested to report to the hospital's main entrance on Wyoming Ave., and to bring their own drinking water and protective clothing.

The hospital has also requested that all housekeeping personnel report for work for clean-up duty as well as all other employees who are not assigned to the medical center at Misericordia.

Hospital dietary personnel are requested to report to work at Misericordia.

Currently the college's food service, Saga Food Services, is providing and preparing food for the Medical Center's patients as well as for the several hundred evacuees and workers residing on campus. Dietary help is urgently needed, the bulletin stated.

Post Office Speeds Efforts To Restore Mail To Flood - Hit Areas

Efforts were being speeded today to restore mail service in flooded areas where clean-up has been largely accomplished.

"We are doing everything we can to give the people service," declared Wilkes-Barre Postmaster John T. Jones, who noted that attempts will be made to deliver mail where previously flooded localities have been opened to traffic.

He noted that the clean-up going on in South Wilkes-Barre, the West Side, Hanover Township and other hard-hit areas has delayed the implementation of mail service to some localities where residents have returned to their homes.

The postal official reported that in most areas of the disaster, the streets are still littered with debris and pumping and clean-up equipment line the streets to make vehicular entry next to impossible.

Effective Thursday, window service will be restored on a limited basis at the main post office on South Main St. Jones said stamps will be available as far as they go, and other window services such as money orders and registry will be available.

Meanwhile, persons who have left their homes to live with relatives and friends were asked to execute change of address forms so mail may be delivered to them. He said the vast outpourings of residents picking up mail is taxing personnel at Wilkes-Barre and Kingston.

Particularly acute at the present time is the parking and traffic problem stemming from the large number of persons calling for mail at Kingston Post Office. Postmaster Jones said he feels that many persons who are calling there for mail could have it delivered to them where they are presently residing if they would change their address on mailing records.

Most flooded-out residents who get Social Security checks have already picked them up, and the officials stated "there are probably less than 1,000 checks still uncalled for." He said he has arranged with Social Security officials to hold the checks at their local post office until July 13.

He noted that about 55 postal employees have still remained to be heard from. They are located

in the hard-hit areas and have so far not responded to announcements urging them to return to work. The postal official reported letters were sent out Wednesday to each non-reporting postal employee directing him to report for work.

"Our carriers are going into new areas each day as they are cleaned up," the official stressed and declared his goal is resumption of service at as many restored areas as possible by the weekend.

He observed that all incoming mail is now being handled in Wilkes-Barre with outgoing mail being processed at Scranton until power is restored and machinery can be operated here.

The postmaster addressed a plea to local merchants who receive parcel post to pick it up or notify the post office as to what they want done with it.

"We have parcels coming out of our ears," declared Jones. He said some shipments of stamps have been received to replace the thousands of dollars worth destroyed at the South Main St. main station, Station "A," Kingston, and other flood-affected offices.

July 6, 1972

7-3-72

PP&L FLOOD DAMAGES NEAR \$11,000,000

**Despite Loss, Company
Authorizes \$1,000,000
For Aid To Victims**

Directors of Pennsylvania Power and Light Company recently authorized up to \$1,000,000 of additional grants-in-aid to the Red Cross, United Funds and other organizations involved in flood relief.

How and when these funds are allocated will be determined following an overall assessment of specific need and a determination of necessary administration.

The utility emphasized the funds are not part of the rate-payers burden, but rather represent a contribution being made by the owners of the business.

The board spent a major part of its meeting reviewing and analyzing the effects of tropical storm Agnes on PP&L's customers and facilities.

In assessing the storm damage and the affects of generating equipment outages, it was reported the total costs may amount to as much as \$11,000,000. Robert R. Fortune, financial vice president, advised the board that company resources were considered entirely capable of meeting the extra costs involved without undue adverse impact on the company's financial position.

It was noted flood damage was most severe in Susquehanna River Valley, especially in regions of Wilkes-Barre and Harrisburg. During the storm, interruptions to homes and businesses in the PP&L service area totaled about 110,000, with maximum at one time being 55,000.

Major transmission facilities were not damaged. Directors were informed system power needs can be met with help from other companies in PJM (Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland) Power Pool, if necessary, during the outage of Brunner Island Plant.

The board also approved further legal steps required to proceed with the company's planned \$35,000,000 financing program through issue of 350,000 shares of preference stock. Also noted were current earnings for the common stock of \$2.50 a share for the 12 months ended May,

1972 compared to earnings of \$2.10 in 1971. It was reported that in Wilkes-Barre which is a nursing home and medical supplies to a nursing home and lunch hour Friday and

7-6-72

Nesbitt Will Reopen By The End Of July

Nesbitt Memorial Hospital will reopen before the end of July, according to Edward M. Wildes, administrator.

Nesbitt Memorial Hospital employees may pick up pay checks from their department heads after 1 p. m. Friday, July 7, according to Director of Financial Services Richard A. Powell. Nursing personnel will obtain pay checks from the Nursing Office on the first floor of the College Misericordia Emergency Medical Center after that time.

Although flood waters inundated the entire basement facilities of the hospital and rose to a one foot level on the first floor, business functions at the Kingston hospital are rapidly returning to normal as clean-up and restoration operations continue.

Flood waters did not reach active or inactive patient accounts and other business records. Business office personnel not assigned to the College Misericordia Emergency Medical Center have already returned to their regular duties.

Nesbitt employees, local volunteers, 13 college-age women volunteers from Scranton, and two National Guard units from Philadelphia have begun restoring Nesbitt Memorial Hospital to a fully functioning health facility. Gerald F. Long of Service-Master, Inc., has directed house-keeping clean-up efforts.

Restoration of the West Side's only hospital is progressing rapidly, according to Administrator Edward M. Wildes. Through the efforts of Kingston Mayor Charles Bankes, more than 100 National Guard troops are assisting in clean-up and security operations.

Wildes said specialists have arrived from Chicago to direct housekeeping and decontamination procedures. Meals for workers and volunteers at the hospital and at College Misericordia campus are being prepared by a food management firm and Nesbitt Memorial Hospital personnel.

The order to evacuate patients from the hospital came at 4 a. m., June 23. Within five hours, more than 160 patients had been removed to College Misericordia Emergency Medical Center and General, Wyoming Valley and Veterans Administration Hospitals.

Sister Miriam Theresa O'Donnell, RSM, president of College Misericordia, granted immediate

approval for establishment of the emergency medical center upon request from Wildes. Nesbitt Hospital personnel, medical staff and the Religious Sisters of Mercy have maintained a complete health care facility on the campus with the assistance of volunteers.

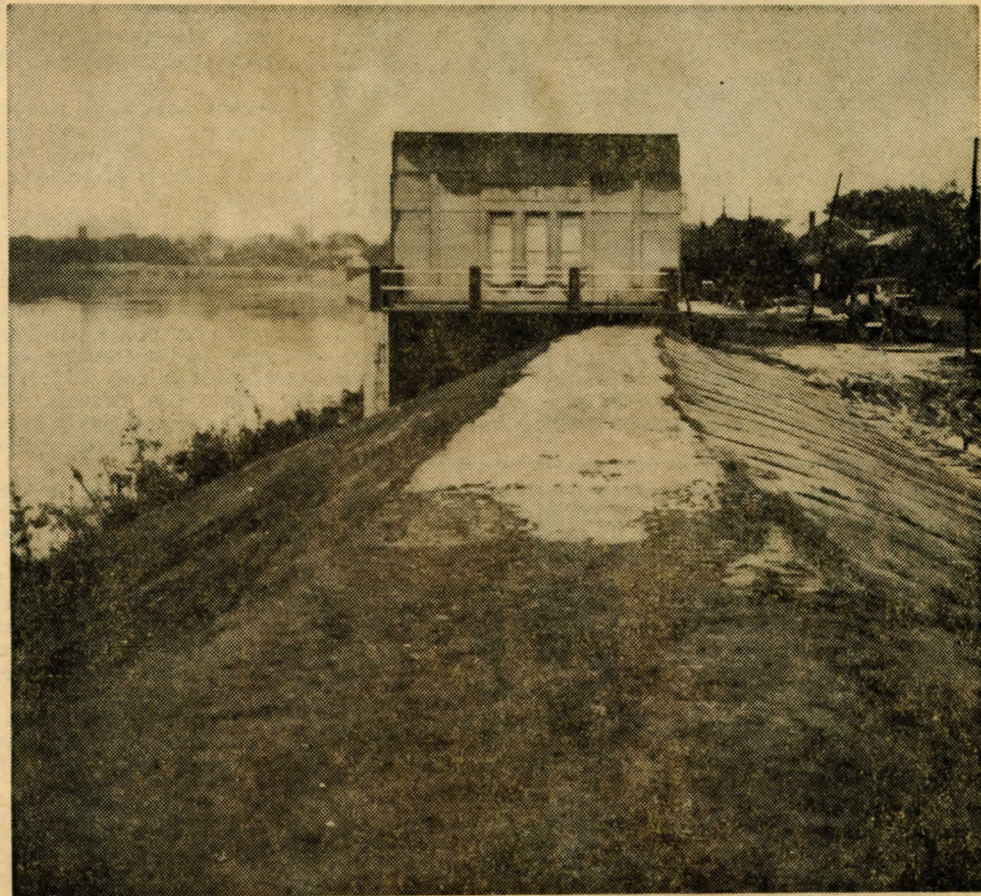
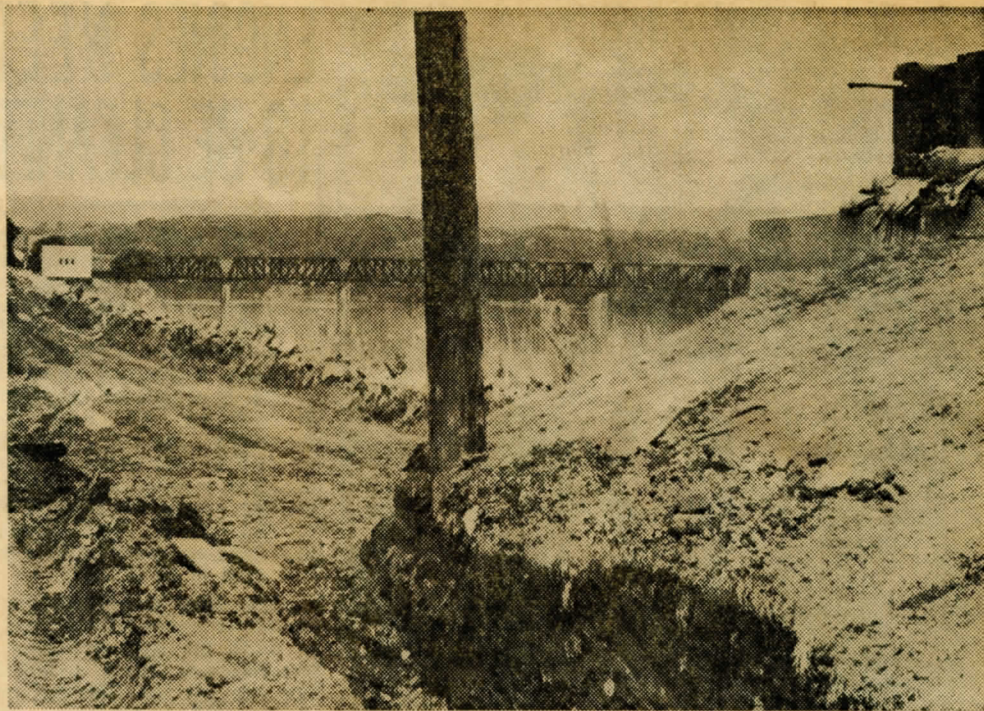
More than 2,600 patients have been seen and treated at the emergency medical center. Three hundred patients have been admitted and treated and 18 babies have been delivered. Dr. Clinton Lehman, Dallas, has admitted and treated 14 patients in the center's cardiac care unit.

The emergency medical center will cease operations in Dallas upon reopening of the Kingston facility.

Flood waters from Hurricane Agnes reached the one-foot level of Nesbitt Hospital's first floor, flooding the entire basement. The lower level houses the departments of radiology, laboratory, pharmacy, dietary, distribution, physical medicine, house-keeping, central services and inhalation therapy.

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1972

Army Engineers Restoring Dike In City Damaged By Flood



—Corps of Engineers Photo
Section of dike near the Old River Road Pumping Station in South Wilkes-Barre, top photo, in the vicinity of St. Therese's Church, has been restored under the supervision of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The levee had been washed away, cut down to street level, by flood waters of the Susquehanna River.

Bottom photo shows the site of the dike that was smashed when waters came rolling into the Riverside Drive area. Area has been leveled by bulldozer in preparation for new dike to be built. Portion of steel dike wall which withstood raging river still stands as shown in upper right of photo.

Work is under way on restoration of other dike sections which had been damaged by the flood.

7-7-72

TLEN

Salvation Army Provides Canteen Service In Forty Fort



—Photo by Joe Walsh

Salvation Army's canteen at rear of Forty Fort Town Hall is meeting place for the borough's victims of "Agnes."

This is a typical scene at most hours during the days for persons displaced by the disaster.



CLOTHES FOR VICTIMS—Clothing, some of it still in boxes and some displayed on racks, filled a large part of the gymnasium-auditorium at the West Side Area Vocational-Technical School Sunday. The clothing was being made avail-

—Jack Walton Photo

able to thousands of residents who had lost their garments in the flood.

7-7-72 TLEN



IMMEDIATE RELIEF SOUGHT—This long waiting line formed Sunday at the West Side Area Vocational-Technical School, Pringle, as throngs of flood-affected people gathered there to apply for immediate emergency relief; to obtain

—Jack Walton Photo

food and clothing, or to seek medical attention at the clinic which had been established in the school.



—Jack Walton Photo

CLEANING AIDS OFFERED—Symbolic of clean-up operations which have begun through the valley was this scene Sunday at the West Side Area Vocational-Technical School where mops and brooms were being distributed to persons whose homes were affected by the flood.

7-7-72

TLEN



—Jack Walton Photo
Applications for immediate emergency assistance are being filed by thousands of residents through Wyoming Valley. This was the scene at the West Side Area Vocational-Technical School Sunday as flood-affected persons applied for Federal food stamps.



FORTY FORT CEMETERY . . . An eight-foot high safety fence was erected around historic Forty Fort Cemetery over the weekend, after a thousand sightseers flocked to see the damage done by raging waters of the Susquehanna River.

The fence was constructed by the Sordoni Construction Company to enclose the flood-battered burial grounds which,

—Photo by Publiservices
according to Michael Delkanic of Loyalville, looked not unlike a ravaged battlefield after the flood caused washout.

Delkanic, who has been with Sordoni since 1946, said the fence had to be erected so that workmen could continue their work inside the cemetery.

7-7-72

TLEN

RESTORATION AT NESBITT PROGRESSING

Nesbitt Memorial Hospital restoration project following the flood is progressing well, according to Edward M. Wildes, administrator. He anticipates the hospital will be ready to resume operations by the end of July.

According to Dr. George B. Davis, chief of medical staff, the first floor did not receive major damage. "The floors and walls are definitely intact," he said. "The basement, however, is where the greatest destruction occurred. A great deal of supplies and equipment which could be carried were removed to the upper floors or College Misericordia." Much of the laboratory equipment was saved, reports Dr. David, though almost everything was lost in the radiology department. Several EKG machines were rescued from physical medicine.

Pharmacist Sidney Weinstock said it was possible to remove most medications from the basement before it was flooded. First efforts centered on rescuing medications needed by current Nesbitt patients. All basic supplies eventually were removed. Weinstock said effective communication has been established with Back Mountain and Dallas area pharmacies. "Things have gone so smoothly between the hospital and the satellite pharmacies that it has not been necessary to request medication from outside sources such as the Army or Navy, even though it was available."

Director of purchasing services, George Mochin, reported seven-eighths of the medical equipment and supplies were removed by Nesbitt employees and Swoyersville volunteer firemen. More than 2,000 pounds of fresh meat and vegetables were taken to the campus, according to dietary director Carl Gall.

Administrator Wildes said the employees, staff and friends of Nesbitt are to be congratulated for the tremendous job they have done from the beginning of the disaster. "Without the efficient cooperation and self-sacrifice of all those who re-

sponded, many at great personal loss, an even greater tragedy might have resulted from the flood of '72. We want to extend our special gratitude to those who have volunteered so many hours." Wildes especially thanked College Misericordia and the Religious Sisters of Mercy.



PLYMOUTH PROJECT . . . Lt. Col. Kotch and Capt. Barzilowski (far left) look on as members of Support Company, 2nd Battalion 109th Infantry, begin the task of removing from the streets of Plymouth, the debris left in Agnes' wake.

Station WILK Returns To Air

Radio Station WILK, which provided key communications during the height of the flood crisis, resumed broadcasting Monday at noon.

Roy Morgan, general manager, reported two of the station's three transmitters at Breslau have been destroyed with the third being repaired to provide a signal.

Morgan said the station is operating without power and without telephone service.

On the day of the flood, employees remained on the air until they were forced to evacuate the N. Franklin Street office building.

After vacating the offices, WILK worked with WSCR of Scranton and WAZL of Hazleton in providing a communications on flood activities to the public.

PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS KEPT LOW IN REGION

State Sanitarian Says
Contaminated Food In
Flood Area Embargoed

Rapid progress is being made in minimizing public health hazards resulting from the flood crisis in the Wyoming Valley area, Eugene Borofski, regional sanitarian, State Department of Environmental Resources reported Thursday.

Thus far, 1,538 retail food stores, restaurants, and food warehouses have been checked by the State Departments of Environmental Resources and Agriculture, and local health departments, and contaminated food is being embargoed, according to Borofski. He said it is extremely important that owners of any such establishments not yet personally contacted by Environmental Resources personnel get in touch with the Department at the Scranton Chamber of Commerce Building (phone 347-2008) so that inspectors can advise operators on procedures necessary to resuming operations.

Borofski reported that in many areas "red squill," a rodent control substance, is being deposited in order to eliminate rodents attracted by spoiling foodstuffs.

"While the substance has a high safety factor since it acts as an emetic if accidentally ingested by humans, all precautions will be taken to bait in areas inaccessible to children and pets," Borofski stated.

The bait, packaged in foil-wrapped packets the size of a candy kiss, will be dispensed by trained rodent control workers, according to Borofski.

"Even though the packets contain small doses and are not generally attractive to children, it is a good practice for parents to caution children against picking

NEAR-NORMAL BANK HOURS ARE IN EFFECT

Three central Wilkes-Barre banks as well as three savings and loan associations Thursday reported near-normal banking hours are being observed at their main and branch offices, while Monday is the target day when regular hours and business will return to normal in most locations.

Regular banking hours now are being observed at the main office of First National Bank of Eastern Pennsylvania as well as at most of its branch offices, according to Thomas H. Kiley, chairman of the board.

However, Kiley noted, the bank branch office at the Crossroads in Hanover Township, is not opened and no time could be set for business there. Kiley also said the Kingston branch and Midway Shopping Center branches most likely would resume regular banking hours Monday.

The bank board chairman said its offices at Wyoming Valley Mall and in Dallas are opened 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. daily for distribution of food stamps. In addition, applications for Small Business Administration loans are being distributed, however the applications will not be processed by the bank. These forms are to be submitted at one of the SBA temporary offices in the area.

Kiley also said PP&L thought regular power could be restored to the main bank Thursday or Friday. Until power is restored, a generator in the parking lot at the office will continue to supply power to operate the bank's computer center on the second floor.

A bank official at United Penn Bank reported business hours have returned on a regular basis at the main building and it is expected the bank branch office in Forty Fort at Welles Street and Wyoming Avenue will resume normal banking hours by Monday. PP&L power is expected to be restored at the main office within a few days, the official noted.

It was learned drilling and torch-cutting at the bank's vault had been successful and access to the vault was gained through a hole in its side late Thursday morning. Entire side of the vault must be replaced. The flood affected clocks which regulate the vault.

Torch-cutting procedures also were taking place at the main-floor vault of First Federal Savings and Loan Association main office. J. J. O'Malley, Jr., assistant treasurer, told a reporter although the vault had been opened

9 FIELD UNITS ESTABLISHED BY VA IN AREA

Temporary Offices Are
Equipped To Provide
Services To Veterans

Area Veterans were advised today that Veterans Administration field offices have been established at nine locations throughout the area.

Additional personnel have been procured from Philadelphia regional office to man the emergency stations, according to Jerome Jacobson, officer in charge of Wilkes-Barre office.

He said the temporary offices are equipped to extend all services to veterans that they would normally receive at the VA Building in Wilkes-Barre, including taking of applications for VA loans.

Jacobson reported the VA field offices are located as follows:

Dallas Senior High School; West Side Area Vocational-Technical School; Wyoming Area High School, West Pittston; J. S. Fine High School, Nanticoke; Shickshinny Borough Building; Forty Fort Borough Building; Bear Creek School; Mackin School, City; Rutter Ave. School, Kingston; College Misericordia, Dallas.

Jacobson's administrative offices are temporarily located at the VA Hospital on East End Boulevard.

ETS

important that owners of any such establishments not yet personally contacted by Environmental Resources personnel get in touch with the Department at the Scranton Chamber of Commerce Building (phone 347-2008) so that inspectors can advise operators on procedures necessary to resuming operations.

Borofski reported that in many areas "red squill," a rodent control substance, is being deposited in order to eliminate rodents attracted by spoiling foodstuffs.

"While the substance has a high safety factor since it acts as an emetic if accidentally ingested by humans, all precautions will be taken to bait in areas inaccessible to children and pets," Borofski stated.

The bait, packaged in foil-wrapped packets the size of a candy kiss, will be dispensed by trained rodent control workers, according to Borofski.

"Even though the packets contain small doses and are not generally attractive to children, it is a good practice for parents to caution children against picking

up the packets and resume regular banking hours Monday.

The bank board chairman said its offices at Wyoming Valley Mall and in Dallas are opened 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. daily for distribution of food stamps. In addition, applications for Small Business Administration loans are being distributed, however the applications will not be processed by the bank. These forms are to be submitted at one of the SBA temporary offices in the area.

Kiley also said PP&L thought regular power could be restored to the main bank Thursday or Friday. Until power is restored, a generator in the parking lot at the office will continue to supply power to operate the bank's computer center on the second floor.

A bank official at United Penn Bank reported business hours have returned on a regular basis at the main building and it is expected the bank branch office in Forty Fort at Welles Street and Wyoming Avenue will resume normal banking hours by Monday. PP&L power is expected to be restored at the main office within a few days, the official noted.

It was learned drilling and torch-cutting at the bank's vault had been successful and access to the vault was gained through a hole in its side late Thursday morning. Entire side of the vault must be replaced. The flood affected clocks which regulate the vault.

Torch-cutting procedures also were taking place at the main-floor vault of First Federal Savings and Loan Association main office. J. J. O'Malley, Jr., assistant treasurer, told a reporter although the vault had been opened after the flood, a part apparently rusted, breaking a gear on an inner door.

O'Malley said the door would be replaced after torch cutting by American Asphalt workers was completed.

O'Malley said the company is open from 9 a. m. to 3 p. m., closing one hour earlier than the usual 4 p. m.

Wyoming National Bank is operating on regular business hours, according to Barry Boyer, executive vice president. He said no abnormally heavy business was noted during the time the bank had been opened. He said the bank's branch office in Gateway Shopping Center is not functioning and no date for its opening could be set.

Wyoming National Bank also is distributing SBA loan application forms, but will not be processing them.

Susquehanna Savings and Loan Association Comptroller Russell Grebe said its main office is expected to be open for regular business on a normal schedule by Monday. In the meantime, customers were requested to use the Wyoming Valley Mall office

regional office to man the emergency stations, according to Jerome Jacobson, officer in charge of Wilkes-Barre office.

He said the temporary offices are equipped to extend all services to veterans that they would normally receive at the VA Building in Wilkes-Barre, including taking of applications for VA loans.

Jacobson reported the VA field offices are located as follows:

Dallas Senior High School; West Side Area Vocational-Technical School; Wyoming Area High School, West Pittston; J. S. Fine High School, Nanticoke; Shickshinny Borough Building; Forty Fort Borough Building; Bear Creek School; Mackin School, City; Rutter Ave. School, Kingston; College Misericordia, Dallas.

Jacobson's administrative offices are temporarily located at the VA Hospital on East End Boulevard.

ETS

Monday through Friday from 10 a. m. to 8 p. m. and on Saturday from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m., as well as the Nanticoke office Monday through Thursday 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. and Friday 9 a. m. to 8 p. m.

Franklin Federal Savings and Loan Association, which suffered damages in all three of its offices: Central Wilkes-Barre, Gateway and Midway Shopping Centers, has opened a temporary office adjacent to its main office on Market Street. A mobile banking unit will be used for additional service to its customers. Hours are 10 a. m. to 4 p. m.

ments, and contaminated food is being embargoed, according to Borofski. He said it is extremely important that owners of any such establishments not yet personally contacted by Environmental Resources personnel get in touch with the Department at the Scranton Chamber of Commerce Building (phone 347-2008) so that inspectors can advise operators on procedures necessary to resuming operations.

Borofski reported that in many areas "red squill," a rodent control substance, is being deposited in order to eliminate rodents attracted by spoiling foodstuffs.

"While the substance has a high safety factor since it acts as an emetic if accidentally ingested by humans, all precautions will be taken to bait in areas inaccessible to children and pets," Borofski stated.

The bait, packaged in foil-wrapped packets the size of a candy kiss, will be dispensed by trained rodent control workers, according to Borofski.

"Even though the packets contain small doses and are not generally attractive to children, it is a good practice for parents to caution children against picking up the packets if found," Borofski said.

He emphasized the rodent control substance has been used in many communities with an excellent safety record.

The Environmental Resources Department soon will be spraying suspect areas with an insecticide in order to kill off any adult mosquitoes, and thus minimize the hazards of communicable disease, Borofski noted. Arrangements also are being made for the application at a later date of No. 2 fuel oil on stagnant water pools in order to preclude the hatching of mosquito larvae.

Borofski reported that the Environmental Department is making available to individual homeowners packets of disinfecting powder which can be mixed with tap water to form a concentrated disinfectant solution for house-cleaning.

These packets are available free at the 20 Flood Information Service Centers throughout the Wyoming Valley.

said the Kingston branch and Midway Shopping Center branches most likely would resume regular banking hours Monday.

The bank board chairman said its offices at Wyoming Valley Mall and in Dallas are opened 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. daily for distribution of food stamps. In addition, applications for Small Business Administration loans are being distributed, however the applications will not be processed by the bank. These forms are to be submitted at one of the SBA temporary offices in the area.

Kiley also said PP&L thought regular power could be restored to the main bank Thursday or Friday. Until power is restored, a generator in the parking lot at the office will continue to supply power to operate the bank's computer center on the second floor.

A bank official at United Penn Bank reported business hours have returned on a regular basis at the main building and it is expected the bank branch office in Forty Fort at Welles Street and Wyoming Avenue will resume normal banking hours by Monday. PP&L power is expected to be restored at the main office within a few days, the official noted.

It was learned drilling and torch-cutting at the bank's vault had been successful and access to the vault was gained through a hole in its side late Thursday morning. Entire side of the vault must be replaced. The flood affected clocks which regulate the vault.

Torch-cutting procedures also were taking place at the main-floor vault of First Federal Savings and Loan Association main office. J. J. O'Malley, Jr., assistant treasurer, told a reporter although the vault had been opened after the flood, a part apparently rusted, breaking a gear on an inner door.

O'Malley said the door would be replaced after torch cutting by American Asphalt workers was completed.

O'Malley said the company is open from 9 a. m. to 3 p. m., closing one hour earlier than the usual 4 p. m.

Wyoming National Bank is operating on regular business hours, according to Barry Boyer, executive vice president. He said no abnormally heavy business was noted during the time the bank had been opened. He said the bank's branch office in Gateway Shopping Center is not functioning and no date for its opening could be set.

Wyoming National Bank also is distributing SBA loan application forms, but will not be processing them.

Susquehanna Savings and Loan Association Comptroller Russell Grebe said its main office is expected to be open for regular business on a normal schedule by Monday. In the meantime, customers were requested to use the Wyoming Valley Mall office

throughout the area.

Additional personnel have been procured from Philadelphia regional office to man the emergency stations, according to Jerome Jacobson, officer in charge of Wilkes-Barre office.

He said the temporary offices are equipped to extend all services to veterans that they would normally receive at the VA Building in Wilkes-Barre, including taking of applications for VA loans.

Jacobson reported the VA field offices are located as follows:

Dallas Senior High School; West Side Area Vocational-Technical School; Wyoming Area High School, West Pittston; J. S. Fine High School, Nanticoke; Shickshinny Borough Building; Forty Fort Borough Building; Bear Creek School; Mackin School, City; Rutter Ave. School, Kingston; College Misericordia, Dallas.

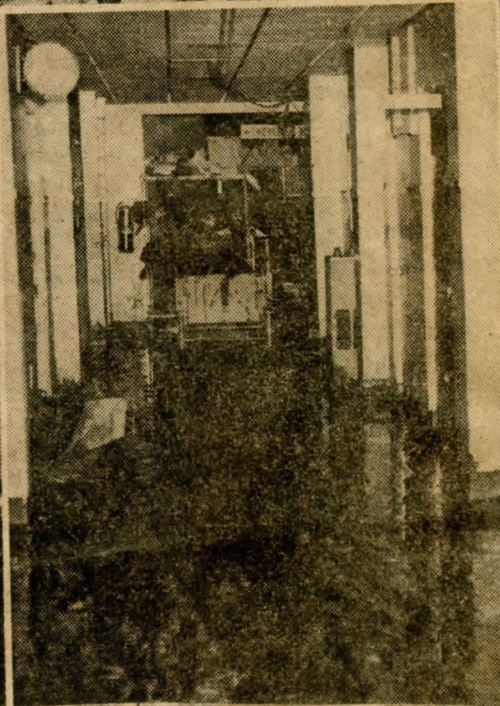
Jacobson's administrative offices are temporarily located at the VA Hospital on East End Boulevard.

Monday through Friday from 10 a. m. to 8 p. m. and on Saturday from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m., as well as the Nanticoke office Monday through Thursday 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. and Friday 9 a. m. to 8 p. m.

Franklin Federal Savings and Loan Association, which suffered damages in all three of its offices: Central Wilkes-Barre, Gateway and Midway Shopping Centers, has opened a temporary office adjacent to its main office on Market Street. A mobile banking unit will be used for additional service to its customers. Hours are 10 a. m. to 4 p. m.

7-10-72

Mercy Hospital Damage Heavy



get more beautiful and appreciate in value with the years just as Oriental rugs and fine paintings and musical instruments do."

In the era of planned obsolescence, that's a thought to hold onto.

Fields is sitting in his New York office, a small room vibrant with color and as acoustically hushed as a cave in the forest primeval: the color and the quiet being the result of thick, abstract-design carpets hanging on every wall.

"This is the new and exciting thing that's going on today in decorating," he says. "Rugs on walls. And it's not a fad. It's a trend that is very important—the revival of tapestries (though

The Percentage Approach

It takes years for the Food and Drug Administration to determine how much of a prime ingredient a food product must contain, and then make the

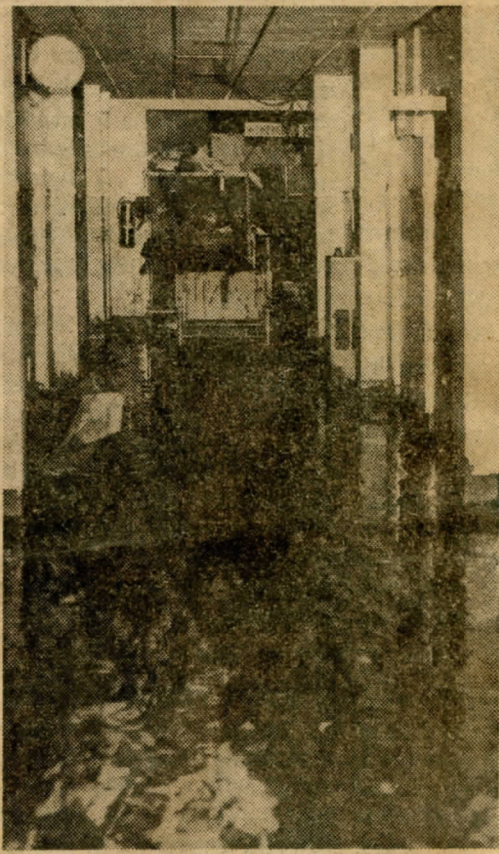
ted the pro- fields. They have the inner reserve to spell technicians and others sapped of their energies because of long hours in attempting to restore the region to its full productivity and life.

The vitality of youth cannot be underestimated and we have come to have regard for their response to the need in a period of rebuilding for a community in which we hope to thrive together.

am war that convention. der Demo- the off-year new ground. ublican Post- at Mackinac charter—in tic and for-

7-10-72

Mercy Hospital Damage Heavy



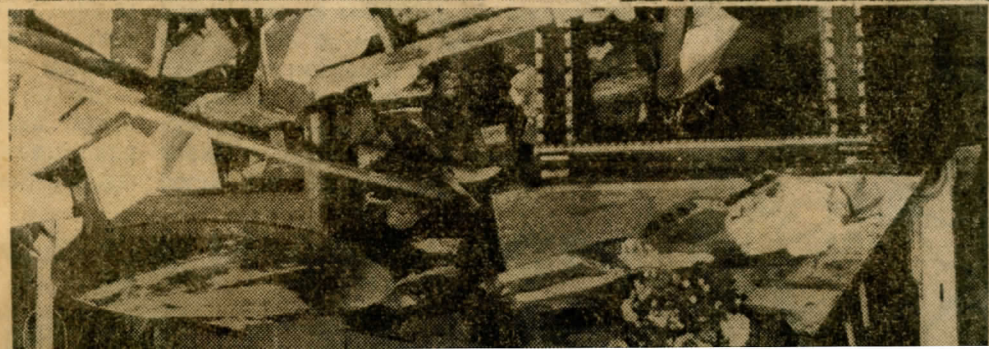
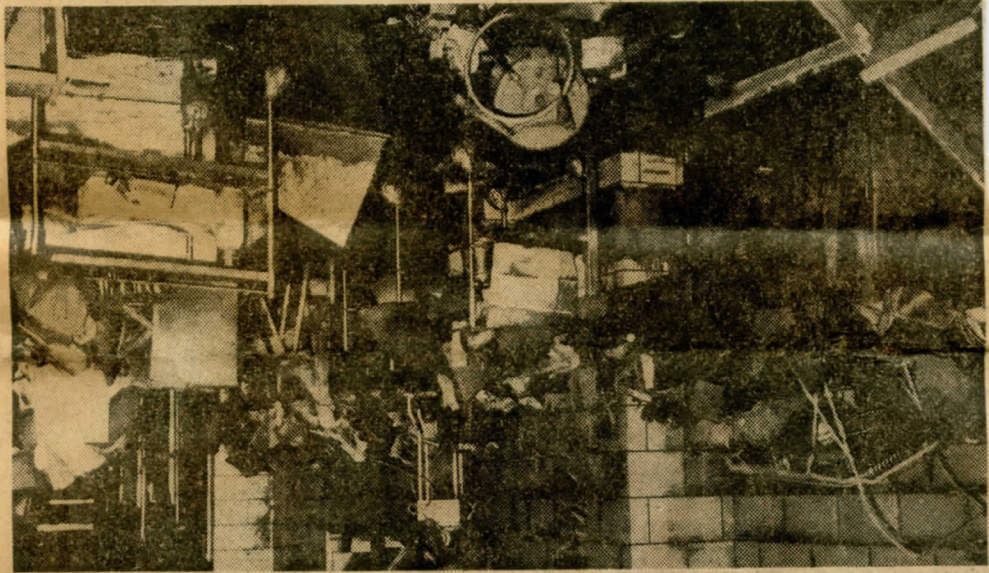
Mercy Hospital sustained extensive damage during the June flood. Water filled the basement and much of the first floor in the four-story building on Hanover Street and the adjacent Nurses' Residence.

Top photo depicts the damage done to the medical library on the first floor. Many volumes were destroyed and chairs toppled by the force of the water.

At middle left photo, a crew cleans debris from the Nurses' Residence and sidewalk. Damage sustained in the hospital itself is shown in the middle right photo. This view is looking toward the emergency room entrance. Destroyed were the hospital shop, administrative offices and rooms for 70 patients.

Bottom photo shows the loss in the central supply room. An entire inventory of medical and surgical materials was lost as the waters rose to the ceiling.

—J. P. Jones Photos



7-10-72

Historical Society's Records Are Salvaged

Flood-damaged historical records of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society on South Franklin Street have been salvaged for future restoration through the efforts of a special team of archivists and historians sent into the water-soaked city by The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The emergency salvage operation attempt was ordered by Mrs. Ferne S. Hetrick, chairman of PHMC, and William J. Weaver, deputy executive director of the State agency, with the approval of Governor Milton J. Shapp, after a week had passed with no word in Harrisburg as to the fate of the Wilkes-Barre society's valuable historical records.

Sharing the PHMC's concern was the National Archives, Washington, D. C., and the American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, Tenn., since the Wyoming Society's collections of documents and records are among some of the most important in the nation, particularly in connection with the history of the anthracite industry.

Due to the flood-caused disruption of communicative facilities in the Wilkes-Barre area, efforts to contact Ralph Hazeltine, executive director of the society, were fruitless until late last week. All that was known in the Harrisburg headquarters of the PHMC was that the Society's building at 69 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, definitely had sustained flood damage.

Contact with Director Hazeltine finally was made, the situation evaluated, and the decision made to dispatch a team of PHMC staff professionals to Wilkes-Barre to see what could be done.

Assembled by Dr. Donald H. Kent, director of PHMC's Bureau of Archives and History, the team was headed by State Archivist Harry E. Whipkey and included Associate Archivist Frank Suran; Assistant Archivist Henry Bown; John Bodnar, Associate Historian for Ethnic Studies, and Leo Peace, of the Records Center staff.

Archivist Whipkey reported that they found damage at the Society's headquarters had been

confined almost exclusively to the basement area, although the flood waters had risen over the first floor to the depth of half an inch.

They also found that there had been time to move to safety most of the manuscript collections, and most of the valuable maps. However, much material stored in the basement area had been damaged by water. The team, working under extremely difficult conditions, removed approximately 50 cubic feet of such material—including part of the Hendrick B. Wright Collection, some of the Dorrance Family papers, and numerous business journals of great value.

The next problem was what to do with it. The material had been immersed for several days, and prompt action was necessary if any of it was to be salvaged.

Deep-freeze storage until restoration work could be started was the only answer, as the professionals knew, but in stricken Wilkes-Barre there were no facilities available. Nor was it likely that any could be found in Harrisburg for this purpose.

Archivist Whipkey decided to try Hazleton, the closest place where cold storage space might be found. The material was trucked the 25 miles to Hazleton, where the team began making telephone calls.

Finally, although it was long after normal business hours, they located Sam Farnell, owner of the S. & R. Provision Co., at 105-113 West Chestnut St., Hazleton, and explained the situation. Farnell at once agreed to return to his cold storage plant and find room for the material.

The deep-freeze storage will prevent further deterioration of the papers, books, etc., until restorations experts can begin their work; it also makes it possible to work on a few items at a time, while the rest remain safely frozen.

This week, another team, headed by Associate Archivist Frank Suran, and Associate Historian John Bodnar, returned to the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society headquarters to "clean up" the salvage operation and to assess the overall damage.

FAMILY ASSN. HAS REOPENED

Staff Members Working At Information Centers

The Family Service Association, Wilkes-Barre, reopened on a limited basis today, according to Richard M. Ross, Jr., president.

Members of the professional staff are now working at Flood Information Centers. They are: Mrs. Anne Vernon and Mrs. Connie Wynn, at the Westmoreland School in Trucksville; Mrs. Sylvia, Missal, at the Rutter Ave. School in Kingston; Mrs. Marcia Rizzo, at the Palmer School, and Mrs. Vicki Santos, at the Guthrie School, both in Wilkes-Barre; Richard Walsh, at the Vocational Technical School in Pringle, and James Kelsch at the Larksville Boro Building.

During the first day of the flood disaster, Mrs. Anne Vernon, Director of Professional Services, organized and operated an information and referral center in collaboration with Chief Sabola of the Trucksville police and with the help of some of whom were themselves evacuees.

Working around the clock, they assisted hundreds of persons to locate friends and relatives and to obtain emergency help with food, clothing, medical care and supplies and other essentials. This program has now been integrated into the services at the Westmoreland School Flood Information Center.

Also, during the first days, Richard Walsh, staff social worker, assisted in rescue of flood victims who were helped to leave their homes by boat.

Light and telephone service have not yet been restored in the Family Service Building. However, some staff members will be available at 73 West Union Street, City, from 8:30 a. m. to 5 p. m., beginning today, to assist with inquiries and counseling.

7-10-72

Red Cross Opens 3 New Disaster Posts

The American Red Cross opened three new disaster service centers in order to speed up assistance to flood victims. The new centers are located at Westmoreland High School, Truicksville; Dallas Senior High School, Dallas, and Forty Fort Borough Building, Forty Fort.

Michael Lanigan, Red Cross disaster director here, said the addition of the three new sites makes a total of 12 disaster service centers now in operation in the Wilkes-Barre area. More centers will be opened as soon as sites and staff become available, he added.

The centers provide flood victims assistance to purchase food, clothing, household furnishings, and occupational supplies and tools. Clean-up kits are also available at the centers. Caseworkers at the centers also provide guidance on assistance available from state and federal agencies, and service provided by other private agencies.

Other Red Cross service centers are located at Guthrie School, 669 North Washington St.; Palmer School, New Grove St.; United Orthodox Synagog, 13 South Welles St.; GAR High School, Grant and Lehigh Sts.; Vocational-Technical School, Pringle; Kennedy School, Nanticoke, Hanover Memorial High School, St. Mary's Road; Plymouth Borough Building, Plymouth, and Wyoming High School, West Pittston.

13,000 STILL BEING LISTED AS MISSING

Failure Of Centers To Compile Listings Is Among Reasons Cited

Richard Correll, Forty Fort, an evacuee who is directing the missing persons unit in the terminal building of the Wilkes-Barre-Scranton Airport, has reported 13,000 displaced persons from the flood have not been located by relatives and friends.

He explained the high number of the unknown persons can be traced to the fact that many of the nearly 400 evacuation centers failed to compile a list of the persons who were admitted and to the lack of telephone service in many areas where evacuees are berthed.

Correll said every available habitate "even a garage" was considered an evacuation center.

Even more surprising is the number of calls to the airport missing persons facility. Correll said he and his staff of volunteers have received long distance calls from as far as Belgium, Africa and Australia.

He added the calls from relatives in all parts of the United States "would stagger the imagination."

Missing persons unit would like to hear from individuals and their whereabouts in order to start phasing out the operation at the airport.

The telephone numbers at the unit are 457-8018, 457-8363, 457-8361 and 457-8362.

Assisting Correll are volunteers Pat and Phil Webb, Janet Janeczek, Pat and Paul Brewer, Joseph Dorio, Bob Hallock, all of Scranton; Mark Webb, Alma Katulis, Laura McGuire, John Crane, all of Moosic; Ronald Pliss, and Pat Phillips, Taylor; Ed Drouse, Avoca; Georgia Fisch, Dickson City; Dave Rowlands, West Pittston; Jack Gill, and Walter Kowalczak, Trenton; Dave Walker, Princeton, N. J.; Also, Shelly Freeman, Phyllis Hutz, Deanna Woodward and Brett Freeman, all of Wilkes-Barre.

16,000 STILL LACK PHONES IN 3 EXCHANGES

Plymouth Area Hardest Hit; Service Being Restored At Steady Pace

Robert Masoner, Wilkes-Barre District manager of Bell Telephone Company reported service is being restored at a steady pace with approximately 16,000 customers in the Wilkes-Barre, Kingston and Plymouth areas still without telephone service.

At Plymouth, where the heaviest damage occurred, there are about 271 working telephones. A manual five-position board has been set up in a trailer on Willow Street and is being maintained on a 24-hour basis. The Plymouth Central office was completely destroyed and will require an entire new system.

Mr. Masoner said several teams of installers from the Western Electric Company from out-of-town are working three shifts of eight hours a day in Plymouth. All of the switching equipment has to be replaced in the building and the work at first was expected to take 30 days. Approximately 700 Bell Telephone employees from Philadelphia, New York and New Jersey are working in Plymouth.

However, Mr. Masoner stated service in Plymouth is expected to be finished earlier. He said calls are being made within and outside of the borough and cited in one day there were 647 local calls in addition to toll calls. He stated 19 coin telephones have been installed at various points in Plymouth to accommodate residents without phone service in their homes.

In Wilkes-Barre, more than 26,000 home telephones are working.

According to Bell Telephone meters which indicate volume more than 10,000 local and toll calls were made in one day. Thousands of tiny circuits are being hand-cleaned at the mail office.

In Kingston, there are 13,000 working telephones, Mr. Masoner reported. He said that additional coin telephones have been installed in the borough. About 4,000 telephones in the Kingston area and 8,500 in Wilkes-Barre still are out of order.

Repairs are continuing to the toll tandem which provides for long distance direct dialing. Mr. Masoner was unable to say when this service will be returned. He said directory assistance equipment in the Wilkes-Barre office is slowly returning service.

Mr. Masoner emphasized some customers may experience brief

The American Red Cross opened three new disaster service centers in order to speed up assistance to flood victims. The new centers are located at Westmoreland High School, Trucksville; Dallas Senior High School, Dallas, and Forty Fort Borough Building, Forty Fort.

Michael Lanigan, Red Cross disaster director here, said the addition of the three new sites makes a total of 12 disaster service centers now in operation in the Wilkes-Barre area. More centers will be opened as soon as sites and staff become available, he added.

The centers provide flood victims assistance to purchase food, clothing, household furnishings, and occupational supplies and tools. Clean-up kits are also available at the centers. Caseworkers at the centers also provide guidance on assistance available from state and federal agencies, and service provided by other private agencies.

Other Red Cross service centers are located at Guthrie School, 669 North Washington St.; Palmer School, New Grove St.; United Orthodox Synagog, 13 South Welles St.; GAR High School, Grant and Lehigh Sts.; Vocational-Technical School, Pringle; Kennedy School, Nanticoke, Hanover Memorial High School, St. Mary's Road; Plymouth Borough Building, Plymouth, and Wyoming High School, West Pittston.

Failure Of Centers To Compile Listings Is Among Reasons Cited

Richard Correll, Forty Fort, an evacuee who is directing the missing persons unit in the terminal building of the Wilkes-Barre-Scranton Airport, has reported 13,000 displaced persons from the flood have not been located by relatives and friends.

He explained the high number of the unknown persons can be traced to the fact that many of the nearly 400 evacuation centers failed to compile a list of the persons who were admitted and to the lack of telephone service in many areas where evacuees are berthed.

Correll said every available habitation "even a garage" was considered an evacuation center.

Even more surprising is the number of calls to the airport missing persons facility. Correll said he and his staff of volunteers have received long distance calls from as far as Belgium, Africa and Australia.

He added the calls from relatives in all parts of the United States "would stagger the imagination."

Missing persons unit would like to hear from individuals and their whereabouts in order to start phasing out the operation at the airport.

The telephone numbers at the unit are 457-8018, 457-8363, 457-8361 and 457-8362.

Assisting Correll are volunteers Pat and Phil Webb, Janet Janeczek, Pat and Paul Brewer, Joseph Dorio, Bob Hallock, all of Scranton; Mark Webb, Alma Katulis, Laura McGuire, John Crane, all of Moosic; Ronald Pliss, and Pat Phillips, Taylor; Ed Drouse, Avoca; Georgia Fisch, Dickson City; Dave Rowlands, West Pittston; Jack Gill, and Walter Kowalczak, Trenton; Dave Walker, Princeton, N. J.; Also, Shelly Freeman, Phyllis Hutz, Deanna Woodward and Brett Freeman, all of Wilkes-Barre.

Plymouth Area Hardest Hit; Service Being Restored At Steady Pace

Robert Masoner, Wilkes-Barre District manager of Bell Telephone Company reported service is being restored at a steady pace with approximately 16,000 customers in the Wilkes-Barre, Kingston and Plymouth areas still without telephone service.

At Plymouth, where the heaviest damage occurred, there are about 271 working telephones. A manual five-position board has been set up in a trailer on Willow Street and is being maintained on a 24-hour basis. The Plymouth Central office was completely destroyed and will require an entire new system.

Mr. Masoner said several teams of installers from the Western Electric Company from out-of-town are working three shifts of eight hours a day in Plymouth. All of the switching equipment has to be replaced in the building and the work at first was expected to take 30 days. Approximately 700 Bell Telephone employees from Philadelphia, New York and New Jersey are working in Plymouth.

However, Mr. Masoner stated service in Plymouth is expected to be finished earlier. He said calls are being made within and outside of the borough and cited in one day there were 647 local calls in addition to toll calls. He stated 19 coin telephones have been installed at various points in Plymouth to accommodate residents without phone service in their homes.

In Wilkes-Barre, more than 26,000 home telephones are working.

According to Bell Telephone meters which indicate volume, more than 10,000 local and toll calls were made in one day. Thousands of tiny circuits are being hand-cleaned at the main office.

In Kingston, there are 13,000 working telephones, Mr. Masoner reported. He said that additional coin telephones have been installed in the borough. About 4,000 telephones in the Kingston area and 8,500 in Wilkes-Barre still are out of order.

Repairs are continuing to the toll tandem which provides for long distance direct dialing. Mr. Masoner was unable to say when this service will be restored. He said directory assistance equipment in the Wilkes-Barre office is slowly returning service.

Mr. Masoner emphasized some customers may experience brief periods without telephone service while work is being done on various cables and cutting and replacement is necessary.

July 17, 19

National Guard, State Police Honor Soldier

A memorial service for Master Sgt. Robert E. Whitman of Johnstown was held Saturday afternoon by his comrades in the National Guard's First Battalion, 103rd Armor.

The service was conducted on the Wilkes College Commons in Wilkes-Barre where Sgt. Whitman was serving on flood emergency duty when he was fatally stricken Friday morning.

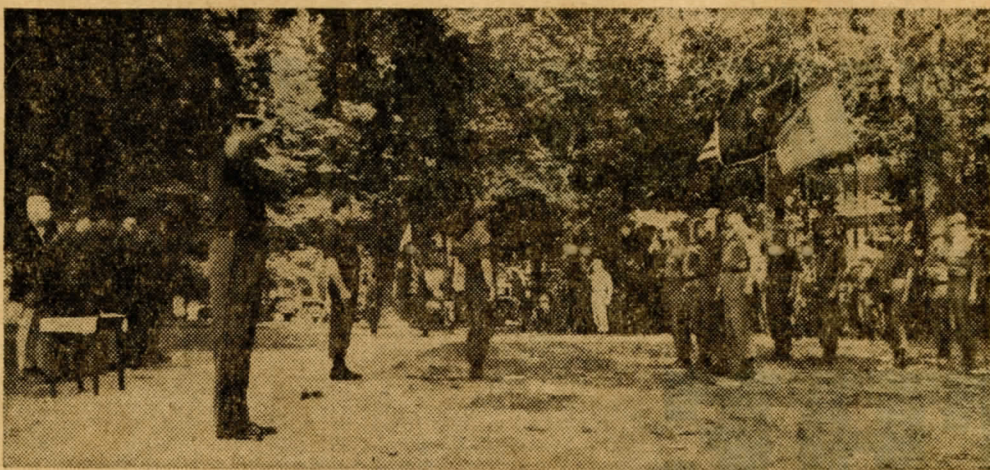
Besides the men of his battalion, civil defense officials, an honor guard of the Pennsylvania State Police and others involved in cleanup work in the flood-ravaged city were on hand.

Capt. William L. Borch, chaplain with the 28th Division's Support Command, officiated. "I cannot help but feel that there is a kind of special significance in the duty in which he was engaged — the noble task in which we are all involved," Chaplain Borch said. "It is something that shall be long remembered, as will be the memory of your comrade, Sgt. Whitman."

Taps were sounded by Ted Veremeychik, a music instructor at Wilkes College whose military service included duty as the official Army bugler at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Other highlights included parading of the colors and the traditional black-draped display of boots and helmet, with yellow scarf symbolizing the Armor branch of the Army.

Sgt. Whitman, who was 42, is survived by his widow, Cecelia C. Whitman and four children of 1200 Kegg Ave., Johnstown.

His body was escorted to his home city on Saturday by an officer of the First U. S. Army.



National Guardsmen and State Police, in the top photo, salute the flag in memory of Master Sgt. Robert E. Whitman, who died Friday morning in line of duty. He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 103rd

Armor, 28th Infantry Division.

At left, a pair of boots, a scarf and a helmet belonging to Sgt. Whitman are guarded by a State Policeman at the memorial service.

July 20, 1954

AP Writer Finds Bustling Spirit Of Renewal On Tour Of Flood Area

(Editor's Note: Gerald Storch visited Wyoming Valley on Tuesday. The following story is his impression of the local flood scene.)

By **GERALD STORCH**
(AP Writer)

Wilkes-Barre (P) — The dust, the dirt, the filth are still everywhere.

Walk in any low-lying area of this hilly city of 60,000, and you get a choice, depending on whether it's dry or raining. The choice is between becoming engulfed with dust that mixes with sweat and pastes clothing to skin, or being slopped with mud.

A full month after one third of this eastern Pennsylvania city was inundated by the floodwaters from tropical storm Agnes, the community still retains at least the appearance of a disaster area.

Lawns, sidewalks, shrubs, walls and just about anything else left standing are blanketed with a coat of tarnish grime, the residue of 20-foot flooding by an angry Susquehanna River.

In the city's well-to-do residential section along Riverside Drive, homes lie scattered. One house sits smack in the middle of a street, swept there by the waters. Others tilt precariously, their foundations and plumbing innards exposed.

The hub of downtown, a gassy diagonal known as Public Square, is filled with information trailers and Salvation Army food trucks. Of some 50 retail establishments that surround the Square, just two—a newsstand and a drug store—have reopened. Heaps of boards, rubble and slime adorn the curbsides.

In the narrow streets feeding into the hub, the traffic lights aren't operating. So National Guardsmen fulfill their two week's annual active duty requirement by waving on an endless single-file procession of cars and trucks.

No doubt about it, Wilkes-Barre looks awful.

And yet . . . amidst all this, a bustling spirit of renewal is undeniably in evidence.

A lot of the city's dirt, for example, happens to be encrusted on the arms and faces of people who have determinedly shoveled four to six inches of mud from their floors.

The mud is piled in the streets, soon to be joined by the soggy, ruined belongings of a lifetime.

You see the spirit of renewal in the eyes of people like 81-year-old William Jayne, hosing down an old American flag that was defaced when three feet of water lapped into his second-

flood bedroom on the terrible flood night of June 23.

You see it as well on scores of homes and stores bearing signs that vow, "Rebuild We Will."

Indeed, Nicholas H. Souchik, Luzerne County's executive director for civil defense, says the flood-stricken sections of the city are now 70 to 75 per cent back on their feet.

"Not as nice as before," he remarks, "but we're recovering." Souchik gave this status report:

Homeless — The biggest problem. Temporary Red Cross shelters still are accommodating about 2,300 people, with perhaps double that number staying with relatives. Some 9,500 trailers have been requested for one year's use as residences while repairs are made. About half the requests have been approved by the federal government, and the ve-

hicles are starting to trickle in.

Electricity—Restored to about 25 per cent of flooded homes. Restoration depends on residents cleaning out their fuse boxes or changing circuit breakers. Printed instructions for both have been widely distributed.

Phones — About 75 per cent back up. Long distance calls still have to go through an operator, since it will be another month before direct dialing equipment is repaired.

Water—Some reports of low pressure, but otherwise not a major problem. Residents advised in the immediate aftermath to boil it first, but this is no longer necessary.

Sewage treatment—still completely out. Sewage is going straight into the river. But tons of mud have been removed from the area's huge Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority treatment plant, and it should be operable in another 30 days.

WYO. Aug. 6.



Shoppers check out the merchandise on Public Square, Wilkes-Barre.