

THE WEATHER

7271—Cloudy, some scattered showers through Friday. Low to high 70. High tomorrow 80.

STAY—Cloudy with thunderstorms through Friday. Low to high 65-75. Warm tomorrow.

TODAY'S NEWS TODAY

Charleston Daily Mail

FINAL

EDITION

VOLUME 137—NO. 17

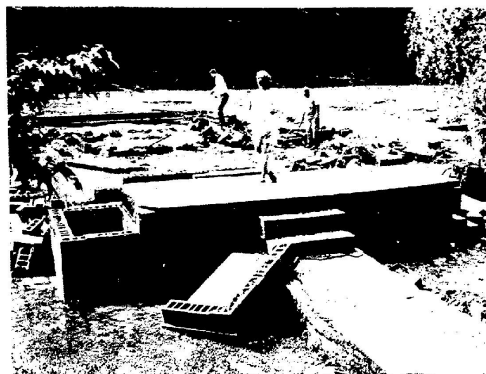
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA, THURSDAY EVENING, JULY 20, 1961

FIVE CENTS

AUTO NEARLY BURIED IN WERTZ AVENUE DEBRIS; CAMPBELL CREEK HOME CARRIED AWAY



A vicious summer storm dumped tons of water down Wertz Avenue in the east end of Charleston.



In a picture at left an automobile is almost buried by rocks, mud and other debris. At right, a rejected woman stands atop a concrete block foundation, all that remains of her \$12,000 home on Campbell Creek.—Daily Mail Photos by Chester Hawes.

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Flood Toll 14; City Disaster Area; 4 Cloudburst Zones Under Curfew

SUBURBS TAKE HEAVY LOSSES; BODIES SOUGHT

By CHARLIE CONNOR, Of The Daily Mail Staff

Devastating walls of water that rolled through hundreds of homes in Kanawha Valley cities last night left damage estimated at hundreds of thousands of dollars.

In Nine, alone, Mayor W. W. Alexander estimated property losses and damage there at \$100,000.

"The requesting industry to come to the city's aid in furnishing cleanup crews," he said. "I've never seen such a mess."

Alexander said 25 families were evacuated from housing 21st Street where a foot of water rose rapidly into their homes.

"We had 50 men working the night through and operated eight boats along streets that were flooded," he said.

At Rock Branch, below Nitro, six homes were reported flooded as waters blocked 70, 75 feet on a hill during the height of the storm.

"Miraculously, however, we had no injuries that I know of and no deaths," he said.

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WEARY MAYOR — Charleston's Mayor Shanklin, up all night saving disaster area in city, prepared to assess the damage today with Civil Defense engineers from Washington.

The mayor tentatively estimated damage to property at \$1,000,000.

"It could be more," he said.

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Loss In Millions; Homes Swept Away

BULLETIN—Director Hallett C. Smith of the State Department of Commerce estimated today that property damage in last night's cloudburst would exceed \$5,000,000. He based this figure on information gathered during a field trip to the flood-stricken areas.

By TOM CUMMINGS and CHARLIE CONNOR, Of The Daily Mail Staff

The death toll in the worst disaster in Charleston's history climbed to 14 by 1 p. m. today as Gov. Barron declared the city and its environs a disaster area and Mayor Shanklin clamped down a strict curfew on hard-hit sections.

In a telegram to President Kennedy and Frank B. Ellis, director of civil defense, the governor outlined the situation of suffering and requested disaster funds to alleviate it.

Mayor Shanklin declared a strict 9 p. m. curfew for these areas:

Walter Hollow (Wertz Avenue), Garrison Avenue, Elk Two-Mile and Bakers Fork.

He said National Guard units under the command of Col. J. Henry Francis would support police department action in guarding these areas.

"Absolutely no movement will be permitted in these areas after 9 p. m. and, furthermore, travel stay away so that rescue teams can work without interference," the mayor said.

In Washington, Senator Francis said he would introduce legislation to help the flood-stricken areas.

In the governor's proclamation, he said the Red Cross is the official relief agency and that the city and its environs are a disaster area.

While time, the rescuer arrived at the city hall and called the city council.

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LIST OF STORM DEAD

The list of known dead in the Charleston flood disaster is as follows:

Carol Thompson, 6, of 104 Wertz Ave.

Mrs. Helen Givens, 38, of Garrison Ave.

Sherry Lynn Givens