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## NAMES CHECKED AT REFUGEE STATION

Man High School was turned into an aid station over the weekend for homeless victims of the coal mining communities of Buffalo Creek where the worst flood in 60 years struck at 8 a.m. Saturday. In the picture above refugees are filling into the school gym as their names are checked

with missing persons lists. At right Red Cross volunteers separate donated food into boxes for distribution to needy families. In other parts of the school homeless families were fed and provided places to sleep.—Daily Mail Photo by Earl Benton.



3-YEAR-OLD Marlene Collins does not comprehend fully the impact on her life of the flood which ruined her home on Buffalo Creek. She is comforted by her father, George Collins, at the refugee center at Man High School. The Collins family was one of the few which escaped to higher ground and lost no immediate family members in the disaster.—AP Wirephoto.

## SURVIVOR

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"I literally 'bounced off' the side of the bridge.  
At about that time, Hale and power lines along the creek bank began falling. Five of the houses were destroyed from the bridge and were swept downstream, where a few minutes later they crashed into the side of the railroad bridge near Acoville. The force of impact smashed the bridge loose from its foundation.  
Barth Liville, of Becho, headed toward Man shortly after 8 a.m. With his wife and father. "All of a sudden, houses started coming down the creek," Liville said.  
He said "there were screams" from those "scrambling" to escape.  
Liville said he stopped the car, which had traveled only a short distance from his home, and he ran back toward the house.  
"I looked for my family. When I saw them, I said, 'I got down on my hands and knees and prayed!'"  
Leroy Lambert's tale was more unusual than this. Lambert, who has an artificial leg, lived about 30 feet below the dam. He was one of the many families near the dam which refused to take seriously warnings of an imminent break.  
Lambert said he heard foot noises from the dam just about the time the water rushed through the hole in the dam. Despite his handicap, his reaction was immediate. He grabbed his artificial leg and hobbled toward his car parked in the yard, supported by his good leg and a crutch.  
He showed for his son and daughter-in-law to get out of the house, as he hobbled out the door.  
The younger Lambert and his wife were the first to reach their car. They started it and were out of the yard, by the time Leroy could get behind the wheel of his own car.  
Lambert said he'd traveled only a short distance from his

## Flood Relief Act Adequate In Area

WASHINGTON—Sen. Jennings Randolph, D-W. Va., chairman of the Senate Public Works Committee, said Sunday that initial approval of flood damage in Logan County, W. Va., "definitely" is that the federal Disaster Relief Act provides for all necessary recovery actions.  
Randolph said he had sent two professional staff members of his committee to meet with Gov. Moore and survey the flood area where at least 1,600 were left homeless.  
"The first needs are food, shelter, medical aid and housing for the flood victims," Randolph said. "Transportation and communications must be reestablished and debris removed."

## Musical Instruments Stolen At DuPont High

State police at Claydon have good reason to believe that burglars who broke into DuPont High School over the weekend took the value of music or at least of the instruments used in playing it.  
Missing after thieves left were a bass drum pedal, tenor sax, French horn, and several cymbals, according to Band Director Jerry D. Crawford. The school was closed for several days.  
No arrests have been made in the case, troopers said.

## Deputy Raised Flood Alarm Before Tragedy Hit Buffalo

By TOM HARMON  
Of The Daily Mail Staff

LOGAN—There were many true heroes in the first minutes of Saturday's flash flood, which has taken more than 60 lives along Buffalo Creek.  
Logan County Sheriff's Deputy Otto Mutters was one of them.

He is being acknowledged as the first to warn Buffalo Creek of its danger. He is being acknowledged as the first to sound the alarm in the wake of the huge waste pile dam which broke, spilling its long-pent-up waters, which covered the valley's floor from mountainside to mountainside.

Mutters began trying to arouse the households along the Buffalo Creek valley at about 4:30 a.m. Saturday, by sounding the siren of his cruiser and blinking the headlights.

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## SEARCH UNDER WAY

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opposed hurriedly arranged for mobile homes to be trucked into Logan to accommodate those left without shelter.  
Many of those residents acknowledged they had been warned this past week that the dam might break, but they pointed out similar warnings had been issued many times in previous years when rains were heavy.

All other warnings had proved to be false.  
In Washington, Sunday, the U.S. Geological Survey estimated that 15 large earth dams at coal mines in two West Virginia counties alone were at danger of "generally lack adequate spillways."

The survey, which was to be sent to members in the U.S. House of Representatives for approval of the flood and event bill, said that another 75 dams in eastern Kentucky, southeastern West Virginia and Virginia are inadequately protected.

Ben Tuber, general superintendent of the Buffalo Mining Co., said the situation had been building for a long time. He said the coal company had requested permission on many occasions from the state to send some of the slag and sludge which accumulated in the firm's lake into valley streams, relieving pressure on the dam.

"They were too concerned about the trout downstream," Tuber said. "It either had to be the people or the trout and now both are gone."

Authorities said they expected to find many more bodies as bulldozers began searching the remains of 14 Appalachian coal camps along the Buffalo flood.

National Guardsmen finally made it the last 2½ miles to the end of the hollow early today; guardsmen said only two of 57 homes remained in that area. They said the on-rushing water took away top soil and stripped the land of vegetation in bedrock.

Gov. Arch A. Moore Jr., who planned to ask the West Virginia Legislature today for \$1 million to start a relief work for flood victims, estimated that 1,600 of the Buffalo Creek area's 1,800 residents had been left homeless.

Calling Moore from his China trip, President Nixon said he had ordered West Virginia's Logan County a national disaster area.

The damage to homes in the flood area equaled the destruction of 1,600 homes in the Johnson River flood of 1936 when 150 homes were destroyed. The loss of life in the Johnson River flood topped 2,000 as several hundred died.

Many flood survivors spent Sunday night on cots in classrooms and hallways of public schools across the county as officials from the Department of Housing and Urban Development



'WHERE'S GRANNY...?'  
Refugee Center Numb With Pathos

## Refugee Center Numb With Pathos

By BETTY MILES  
MAN, W. Va. (AP)—A screen rang out in the Man High School gym Sunday afternoon, showing the faces of refugees.

The Hooper family scene was typical in the refugee center. The homeless families, Mrs. Clara Hooper of Landale had learned that her mother was dead.

Angela's paternal grandmother, Mrs. Lucille Hooper, burst quickly weeping, knowing her mother had only gone to the hospital and would be back. But Angela realized her grandmother would never be back.

She was one of more than 600 who were taken to the Man High School gym Sunday afternoon, showing the faces of refugees.

We just tried to have hope until today," Lucille Hooper said. "We knew she was missing, but we just kept hoping she would be saved."

Life can lose our furniture and homes," she added, "but no one can replace our lost loved ones. I believe that."

Colins' middle child, Marlene, 3, sat on his knee as he said, "She appeared cheerful as did her seven-year-old brother Jerry."

Mrs. Collins pacified their youngest, 11-month-old Shawn, with a bottle.

As well as his home, the torrent wiped out the means of living. He was employed at the Buffalo Mining Co.'s Lorado mine, which was destroyed.

Colins said he thought it would be at least six months before he could rebuild his home, but he was determined to stay in the area.

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## SAD

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foot wall of water lifted her small frame home from its foundation and carried it away.

"People say she didn't shoot or anything," her husband, Bracy Marcum, 57, said in a painfully slow and deliberate manner. "I think she must have been in a state of shock."

Maybe by some miracle she's still alive, his words trailed off as he realized the remoteness of what he was about to say.

Marcum was sitting in a truck at the mouth of Buffalo Creek talking quietly with relatives and friends while waiting for some word of encouragement. None came.

The subject work clothes he was wearing and a miners cap were the only worldly possessions he had left. His wife, many of his friends and his home were gone.

The flood struck the unsuspecting community at 4 a.m. Saturday. Marcum was not aware of it until the power went off at the mine where he was working about 8:30. He had left his wife only an hour or so before.

"I've walked all along the road where my house used to be, looking for some kind of sign. But there was nothing left. You won't believe the destruction up here."

The little coal mining community that had no home since 1898 was gone. Debris covered the sides of the road, cars stood on end, most of the houses and trailers were destroyed or lifted from their foundations.

They lodged against others. Leifur received the full force of the deadly waters. Few escaped it.

But, "Maybe by some miracle..."

## Church, Civic Groups Join In Flood Relief

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## THE WEATHER—LOCAL AND NATIONAL

