



River's Anger

The surging Cheat River in Preston County took its toll on these two houses in the Rowlesburg, W. Va., area last week. That community, as well as neighboring Albright, W. Va., sustained major damage from the flooding which has claimed 34 lives in the state. Search teams are still looking for victims and residents of the towns are battling to put their lives back together and hopefully find some of what the river took from them. Donations ranging from clothing to food items to money have been pouring into the flood-stricken areas since last week and numerous families have applied for federal assistance.



Preston County Towns Staggered By Flood Waters

Editor's Note: Additional photographs of the Rowlesburg, Albright areas, taken by Patrick Gregg, are on pages 18, 19.

By PATRICK GREGG
Times-News Writer

PRESTON COUNTY, W. Va. — It has been more than a week since devastating flood waters hit this county, causing it to be declared a disaster area and to suffer several millions of dollars in damage.

While clean-up crews, railroad workers, National Guardsmen and homeless residents were scattered throughout the Rowlesburg and Albright areas this week, only one actually seeing those areas could believe the damage done by a swollen Cheat River last week.

In Rowlesburg, women were busily gathering clothes for those who lost virtually everything. Their headquarters were at the Rowlesburg Fire Department building, and right across the street was a soup kitchen set up in a church for those who had no food.

To get into Rowlesburg, a special Civil Service pass had to be displayed to firemen who were monitoring those going in and out of the town.

Volunteers from other nearby communities were also taking part in the distribution of food, clothing and furniture, and while the destruction done by a flood was as bad as anyone of the residents had ever thought, a sense of community was evident.

The main activity in the town was the reconstruction of a railroad

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bridge that had been completely wiped out. Chessie crews were diligently attempting to get on schedule with their work, while the old bridge, made of concrete and steel, lay in a watery grave in the bed of the Cheat River.

When the flooding Cheat River tore the bridge loose last week, the span fell into the river bed. As trees, houses and cars gathered against the bridge, the route of the Cheat River was redirected—right through Rowlesburg.

Some residents said when the flood hit them, carrying debris of all sorts, many thought they were being attacked or a war had started when loud crashes and objects hitting their homes started.

While talking through the town, many foundations were seen without houses. Numerous dwellings had been placed somewhere else, and still more furniture, attic, and parts of houses were found along the Cheat.

Still others said they had never seen the force of water so great, referring to the water that carried away an almost new bridge and peeled back road pavement like it was paper.

Standing next to the railroad tracks that go through the center of town, one can see the foundation of the rescue squad hall that once stood there. Only the foundation, not even the smallest piece of the brick building or the ambulance that was victimized, could be found.

Over half of the houses in this community were destroyed, as approximately 65 homes have been condemned due to the flood.

In the town of Albright, the scene was both dismal and breathtaking. Sources there said there are no more than 80 homes, over 60 of which were destroyed.

There were many empty lots in Albright as well. Where at least parts of houses could be seen at times in Rowlesburg, there was only empty space in Albright. National Guardsmen were scattered throughout the small community, protecting what little remained in this part of Preston County.

Mobile homes that did remain had been either rolled over on their sides or were bunched up together in small groups. A few vehicles remained in town, but most were damaged severely or not there at all.

Roadways were ripped apart by the waters of the Cheat, and a

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Board's Position Stated

In a statement read at Tuesday's regular meeting of the Allegany County Board of Education, board president George C. Stein said the board has not made a decision whether consolidation of any schools will occur.

Such a decision would not come before next April at the earliest, according to the statement.

"The members of the Board of Education of Allegany County wish to acknowledge at this time the many letters they have received over the past several months in regard to consolidation of schools," the statement said.

"We do appreciate your interest, your concerns and your opinions."

The statement recalled that a Long-Range Planning Committee set up to assess secondary education submitted its report to the board last May.

School community committees were then appointed to work during October and November on:

Reviewing and assessing materials provided by the Co-ordinating Council; reviewing the criteria for closing or consolidating schools; reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of each school; i.e., such matters as new graduation requirements and curricular offerings; making available known information and seeking community reaction and recommendations; and assessing the total input.

During the first week of December, each school community committee will present a written report to the Co-ordinating Council.

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Weather

FORECASTS

Allegany, Garrett Counties — Friday, mostly sunny and cooler. High in the upper 50s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph. Friday night, becoming cloudy. Low in the mid 30s with 30 percent chance of rain in Garrett. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph. Saturday, cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. High near 50. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

CITY TEMPERATURES

1 p.m. 64	7 p.m. 66
2 p.m. 62	8 p.m. 67
3 p.m. 64	9 p.m. 65
4 p.m. 66	10 p.m. 63
5 p.m. 66	11 p.m. 61
6 p.m. 64	Midnight 59

Toll From Floods Climbs To 34

By ROXY SLIVIAK
Times-News Writer

The confirmed deaths as a result of the flooding of Nov. 4 climbed in number again Thursday as the bodies of three more people were found. They included two hunters swept downstream in Hampshire County, W. Va.

Shortly after 9 a.m., the bodies identified as Charles Leonard Hammon, 49, of Frederick and Willard McKimney, 42, of the Waterford, Va. area, were located.

"They were found about 35 feet apart, three miles from where they went in," said Sgt. M.M. Davison of the Romney detachment of the West Virginia State Police.

The third hunter who was swept away as they were trying to cross a flooded area, Paul Robert Oden, 21, of Brunswick, was found Nov. 10 not far from where he went into the water.

A third body was found Thursday in Grant County and identified by Davison as Jerry Regester, 37, of Durgon, W. Va. Davison said Regester's twin

brother, Larry, was still missing Thursday night.

By late Thursday, the total number of deceased had increased to 34, according to Capt. D.G. Goldizen of the Elkins detachment of the West Virginia State Police.

Goldizen said the number of deaths have included Pendleton County, 10; Grant County, eight; Pocahontas County, five; Hardy County, four; Hampshire County, three; Upshur and Tucker counties, two each.

Goldizen said the total number of bodies found was a higher number than he ever thought they would be able to locate.

"They're in there working every day," said Goldizen of the work the National Guard, police, firemen, emergency service and citizens were doing

to return to normalcy and locate the missing.

The search has been concentrated along river banks where some have been found in brush piles, said Goldizen.

"It just takes a very close search," he said.

By Thursday night Goldizen announced that about 13 were still being carried as missing.

He expected the search efforts for these missing would be increased this weekend.

Davison said in some of the counties, all the missing had been located while in others, a number are still listed as missing.

"Everybody reported to us in Hampshire County that we had confirmed to be missing has been located," said Davison. "In Grant County, they still have six people missing. One is still

missing in Hardy County."

Davison explained the location at which bodies have been found has varied. Some have been located as far as nine miles away from the point at which they went into the water while others have been much closer.

While residents continued to work on their homes, extensive work remained to be done. "We still have several hundred in the area that have not been able to move back into their homes," said Davison of the large number of residents still living with friends and relatives.

"Hampshire County is fortunate that the roads are not bad," he added, noting Route 50 and Springfield Grade Road were the only two that remained closed late Thursday. In Preston County, Route 72 and Salt Lick Road remained closed.

Davison reissued a warning to sightseers suggesting that if they have no official business in the floodtown counties of West

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Dead, Missing Listed

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (UPI) — This is the list of confirmed flood-related deaths and names of those missing in West Virginia:

Grant County — Dead: Ron Gatto, Monongahela, Pa.; Kenneth Schell Sr., 38, Durgon; Sietman Harper, 82, Parsons; Thomas Joe Clower, Romney; Richard Schell, 35, Durgon; and Pearl Lewis, 94, Dolly Town. Missing: Larry Regester, Durgon; Jerry Regester, Durgon; Richard Funk, no address; Margaret Painter, 26, Elkins; Harry Harper, Hendricks; Jimmy Kyle, no address, and Tom Hyatt, North Charleston, Pa.

Hampshire — Dead: Paul Oden, Brunswick, Md.; Charles Hammond, Frederick, Md.; and Billy McKimney, Waterford, Va.

Hardy — Dead: Jim Flint, 62, Moorefield; Bob Roy Watkins, 69, Fisher; Virginia Watkins, Fisher; and Noble Gunnoe, 59, Beckley. Missing: Carlos Milam, Moorefield.

Pendleton — Dead: John McMillion, Dolly Town; Eva Hedrick, 70, Brushy Run; Artie Hedrick, 90, Brushy Run; Delmar Nelson, 64, Cherry Grove; Mervin Lamb, 74, Upper Tract; James Keplinger, 68, Upper Tract; William Hartman, 75, Upper Tract; Willard Spencer Sr., Franklin; Willard Spencer Jr., Franklin; Mary Spencer, Franklin; and Ivan Stone, 65, rural Pendleton County. Missing: Dorothy Lilly, Franklin area; Kathy Tinger Hoffman, Franklin area; Jody Whiteside, 16, Circleville; and Catherine McMillion, Dolly Town.

Pocahontas County — William Hayhurst, Marlinton; Leo Mace Sr., near Marlinton; Ruby Skeens, Renick; Darren Skeens, Renick; and Rose Mick, Renick. Missing: None.

Preston County — Lynn Taylor, 89, Albright. Missing: Josephine Newcomb, Albright.

Upshur County — Elizabeth Jean Lane, 57, Adrian; and Joseph Gould Jr., 59, Buckhannon. Missing: None.

Tucker County — Raymond Bonner, Gladwin; Blaine Dumire, Parsons. Missing: Josephine Bonner, Gladwin.

Robber Flees

The Federal Bureau of Investigation made this photograph available showing the suspect who robbed the First National Bank at Hills Plaza on Industrial Boulevard Tuesday evening. Police said the suspect is a white man in his early 20s, about six feet tall and has blue eyes. Anyone having information about the incident is asked to immediately call the FBI at 724-1860 or contact Lt. Byron Schulten or Sgt. John Morley of the City Police Department at 727-1666. The armed bandit got away with an undetermined amount of cash.



Firm's Official Indicted

Blaine Joseph Friend, 42, owner of Friend's Stockyard Inc., RD 2, Accident, has been indicted by a federal grand jury for conspiracy and aiding and abetting the illegal slaughter and sale of carcasses meat, according to an announcement Thursday by United States Attorney J. Alan Johnson. A sealed indictment was filed Tuesday.

Friend was arrested by U.S. Marshall Thursday at the Waynesburg livestock auction. He is currently free on bail and will be arraigned in U.S. District Court, Pittsburgh, Pa., on Thursday, Nov. 21.

Friend was charged as a member of a conspiracy, which included Hughie P. Weyandt III and Jerome Davis, owners of Weyandt and Sons Wholesale Meats, Claysburg, Pa., and Jerry Davis Packing Company, Dysart, Pa. respectively.

Weyandt and Davis were both convicted and sentenced in 1983 for numerous violations of the Federal Meat Inspection Act. They were charged with illegally slaughtering carcasses and sick cows, stamping the carcasses with an illegal USDA meat brand as "USDA inspected and passed" when the carcasses were not inspected and transporting the carcasses in commerce to Philadelphia, Pa., for ultimate human consumption.

Friend was also charged with aiding and abetting Weyandt and Davis by supplying the carcasses with which were illegally slaughtered, stamped and transported in commerce.

According to the indictment (Continued On Page 16)

Authorities Still Seeking Boy's Killer

The Preston County, W. Va. Sheriff's Department said Thursday evening it has no concrete suspect or motive in the stabbing of a 13-year-old boy whose body was found Tuesday morning.

"Why would anyone want to kill a 13-year-old boy?" asked Chief Deputy Jim Fields concerning the death of Jeremiah Matthew Watkins, 13, of Terra Alta, W. Va.

The preliminary autopsy report shows the youth died of a single stab wound, Fields said. The report also showed no sexual molestation had occurred.

The youth, who had been missing since Saturday, was found stabbed to death by a search party made up of firemen. His disappearance was reported by his mother, Mrs. Enid (Zweyer) Watkins, who thought he was with a friend. Fields said a missing person report was taken Sunday morning by police.

"We absolutely have nothing," said Fields of the investigation, noting no weapon was found.

He believes a motive would provide police with some direction but at this point, none can be established. There is also no "concrete suspect," Fields added.

DEATHS

BARRE — Miss Icie M., 65, Moorefield, W. Va.
CONNOR — Mrs. George C., 77, of 511 Cumberland Street.
GREENWALT — Frank L., 64, Purgitsville, W. Va.
LEWIS — Mrs. Romey, 93, Seneca Rocks, W. Va.
LOAR — Elmer W., 68, Vale Summit.
MAURER — Mrs. Florence M., 86, Oakland.
McMILLION — John L., 71, Seneca Rocks.
SIMMONS — Willie C., 89, Franklin, W. Va.
(Obituaries on Page 14)

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