



## INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE



TO Dick Little  
AT Morgantown, WV  
SUBJECT

DATE 3-4-86

FROM Cpl R. E. O'Dell  
Planning & Research Division

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IDENTIFY SUBJECT IN SPACE PROVIDED. WRITE ON ONE SUBJECT ONLY AND SIGN THE LETTER. NO SALUTATION OR COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING NEEDED

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Dick:

I will Keep you updated as bodies are recovered. If I can be of any other assistance to you, feel free to call.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
WEST VIRGINIA STATE  
725 JEFFERSON  
SOUTH CHARLESTON  
?

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

VICTIM LOCATION & RECOVERY

MARCH 5, 1986

NOVEMBER, 1985 FLOOD

NORTH CENTRAL - NORTHEASTERN WEST VIRGINIA

|               |    |        |
|---------------|----|--------|
| IN WATER      | 3  | 7.1%   |
| IN OPEN AREA  | 6  | 14.3%  |
| IN TREE       | 3  | 7.1%   |
| IN SILT       | 5  | 11.9%  |
| IN DEBRIS     | 22 | 52.4%  |
| IN RESIDENCE  | 2  | 4.8%   |
| NATURAL DEATH | 1  | 2.4%   |
| TOTAL         | 42 | 100.0% |

PRESTON COUNTY

1. LYNN TAYLOR

LIVED 1 MILE SOUTH OF ALBRIGHT ALONG THE CHEAT RIVER. HE REFUSED TO LEAVE HIS HOME. HIS BODY WAS FOUND APPROXIMATELY 2.5 MILES DOWN RIVER FROM HIS RESIDENCE, NEAR THE WEST BANK. HIS CLOTHING WAS ATTACHED TO A BRANCH THAT HAD LODGED AGAINST THE RIVER BANK.

2. JOSEPHINE NEWCOMB

LIVED IN ALBRIGHT ALONG THE CHEAT RIVER. HER MOBILE HOME WAS WASHED AWAY AND HER BODY WAS FOUND APPROXIMATELY 13 MILES NORTHWEST OF ALBRIGHT. HER BODY WAS FOUND CAUGHT ON A LOG APPROXIMATELY 20 FEET FROM THE EAST BANK. (IN WATER) THIS AREA IS ADJACENT TO STATE SECONDARY 73/4, APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILES FROM THE PRESTON-MONONGALIA COUNTY LINE.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

3 PAUL ODEN  
4 CHARLES HAMMOND  
5 WILLARD MCKIMMEY

(TOGETHER)

THESE 3 PERSONS BODIES WERE FOUND IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO EACH OTHER. THEY WERE FOUND NEAR STATE SECONDARY ROUTE 3 NEAR SPRINGFIELD, WHICH IS LOCATED ON STATE ROUTE 28, BETWEEN ROMNEY AND FT. ASHBY. THE BODIES WERE FOUND ON THE RIVER BANK, APPROXIMATELY 20 FEET FROM THE RIVERS EDGE HUNG IN DEBRIS. THEIR BODIES WERE WASHED APPROXIMATELY 1



MILE FROM WHERE THEY WERE KNOWN TO  
HAVE BEEN.

PENDLETON COUNTY

6 WILLARD RANDOLPH SPENCER SR.  
7 WILLARD RANDOLPH SPENCER JR.  
8 MARY SPENCER  
9 DOROTHY LILLY

(TOGETHER)

THESE 4 PERSONS WERE AT THE SPENCER  
RESIDENCE, LOCATED ON ROUTE 220, APPROX-  
IMATELY 10 MILES SOUTH OF FRANKLIN.  
SPENCER SR. AND SPENCER JR. WERE FOUND  
APPROXIMATELY .5 MILE NORTH OF THEIR  
RESIDENCE ON THE EAST AND WEST BANKS OF  
THE SOUTH BRANCH. (VISIBLE) MARY SPENCER  
WAS FOUND APPROXIMATELY 5 MILES NORTH OF  
THE RESIDENCE ON THE EAST BANK OF THE  
SOUTH BRANCH UNDER DEBRIS. (VISIBLE)  
DOROTHY LILLY WAS RECOVERED JANUARY 22,  
1986 APPROXIMATELY .7 MILE NORTH OF  
WHERE SHE WAS LAST SEEN. SHE WAS  
RECOVERED FROM THE WATERS OF THE SOUTH  
BRANCH RIVER.

10 IVAN STONE

STONE WAS ON HIS FARM TRACTOR ON ROUTE  
220, APPROXIMATELY 12 MILES SOUTH OF  
FRANKLIN. APPARENTLY HIS TRACTOR TURNED  
OVER AND HIS BODY WAS FOUND LODGED  
AGAINST A FENCE A SHORT DISTANCE FROM  
THE TRACTOR ALONG THE SOUTH BRANCH.

11 MERVIN LAMB  
12 WILLIAM CLINT HARTMAN

(TOGETHER)

THESE TWO PERSONS WERE KNOWN TO HAVE  
BEEN IN A SMALL CABIN LOCATED ALONG ROUTE  
220, APPROXIMATELY 7 MILES NORTH OF  
FRANKLIN. BOTH BODIES WERE RECOVERED  
APPROXIMATELY 1.3 MILES NORTH ON THE EAST  
AND WEST BANKS OF THE SOUTH BRANCH UNDER  
DEBRIS.

13 JAMES KEPLINGER

THIS PERSON WAS IN A MOBILE HOME ON ROUTE  
220, APPROXIMATELY 7 MILES NORTH OF  
FRANKLIN. HIS BODY WAS RECOVERED APPROX-  
IMATELY 4 MILES NORTH OF HIS RESIDENCE  
PARTIALLY BURIED UNDER SILT, ALONG THE  
SOUTH BRANCH.

14 DELMAR NELSON

HE LIVED IN CHERRY GROVE. HE WAS IN HIS  
VEHICLE ON STATE ROUTE 28, SOUTH OF  
CHERRY GROVE. HE WAS FOUND APPROXIMATELY  
1.5 MILES SOUTH OF CHERRY GROVE LAYING  
ALONG SIDE THE ROADWAY NEAR HIS VEHICLE.

15 JOHN MCMILLION

HE LIVED 3.5 MILES NORTH OF SENECA ROCKS



16 KATHRINE MCMILLION  
17 PEARL LEWIS

(TOGETHER)

ON THE EAST SIDE OF ROUTE 28 AND HIS BODY WAS FOUND IN GRANT COUNTY (SEE GRANT COUNTY FOR DETAILS). KATHRINE MCMILLION'S BODY HAS NOT BEEN LOCATED. PEARL LEWIS' BODY WAS RECOVERED IN GRANT COUNTY. (SEE GRANT COUNTY FOR DETAILS).

18 JODY WHITESIDE

HE WAS LAST SEEN APPROXIMATELY .4 OF A MILE WEST OF SENECA ROCKS AND HIS BODY WAS RECOVERED APPROXIMATELY 600 YARDS DOWN STREAM, COVERED WITH MUD AND SILT.

19 KATHY TINGLER HUFFMAN

SHE WAS LAST SEEN ON ROUTE 220 APPROXIMATELY 6 MILES WEST OF FRANKLIN NEAR THE NORTH MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER ROAD (STATE SECONDARY 18). HER BODY HAS NOT BEEN FOUND.

20 ARSTIC GEORGE HEDRICK  
21 EVA HEDRICK

BOTH WERE AT THEIR RESIDENCE ALONG STATE SECONDARY ROUTE 5/3, APPROXIMATELY 3.5 MILES SOUTH OF ROUTE 33 NEAR ONEGO. EVA HEDRICK WAS RECOVERED APPROXIMATELY 3 MILES NORTH OF HER RESIDENCE ON THE WEST SIDE OF BRUSHY RUN. (VISABLE) ARSTIC GEORGE HEDRICK WAS RECOVERED APPROXIMATELY 3.5 MILES NORTH OF HIS RESIDENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF ROUTE 33 AND 5/3 PARTIALLY BURIED IN THE MUD AND WATER. (BRUSHY RUN)

TUCKER COUNTY

22 RAYMOND BONNER  
23 DOROTHY MAE BONNER

(TOGETHER)

THEY LIVED ON STATE SECONDARY 35/15 APPROXIMATELY 2 MILES WEST OF THE INTERSECTION OF STATE SECONDARY 35/16 AND .45 ALONG DRY FORK CREEK. RAYMOND BONNER'S BODY WAS FOUND HANGING IN A TREE ON ROUTE 26 APPROXIMATELY 2 MILES EAST OF ROUTE 72. DOROTHY MAE BONNER'S BODY WAS FOUND NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF US ROUTE 219 AND STATE ROUTE 72 APPROXIMATELY 15 MILES FROM HER RESIDENCE. HER BODY WAS DISCOVERED IN A PILE OF DEBRIS.

24 BLAINE C. DUMIRE

HE LIVED IN A TRAILER PARK ON WALNUT STREET IN PARSONS ALONG THE BLACK FORK RIVER. HE REFUSED TO LEAVE HIS HOME. HIS BODY WAS FOUND IN A PILE OF DEBRIS APPROXIMATELY 3 MILES FROM HIS RESIDENCE ON THE BANK OF THE CHEAT RIVER IN THE HOLLEY MEADOWS AREA.



POCAHONTAS COUNTY

25 RUBY SKEENS  
26 DAREN SKEENS  
27 ROSE MICK

(TOGETHER)

THESE THREE PERSONS WERE IN A VEHICLE TRAVELING WEST ON ROUTE 39 APPROXIMATELY .2 MILES EAST OF HUNTERVILLE. ALL THREE BODIES WERE RECOVERED APPROXIMATELY .4 MILE DOWN KNAPP CREEK. ALL THREE WERE RECOVERED FROM DEBRIS WITHIN 300 YARDS OF EACH OTHER.

28 LEO MACE, SR.

HE LIVED IN MARLINTON AND HE AND HIS WIFE REFUSED TO LEAVE THEIR HOME. AS THE WATER CAME UP IN THEIR HOME, MRS. MACE WENT UPSTAIRS, HOWEVER, LEO MACE DESCRIBED AS AN INVALID WAS UNABLE TO CLIMB THE STAIRS AND, THEREFORE, DROWNED IN HIS HOME.

HARDY COUNTY

29 ROB ROY WATKINS  
30 VIRGINIA WATKINS

(TOGETHER)

BOTH LIVED IN A MOBILE HOME ON EAST BRIGHTON STREET, MOOREFIELD. THEY HAD BEEN ADVISED TO EVACUATE BUT HAD FAILED TO DO SO. THE MOBILE HOME WASHED AWAY. ROB ROY WATKINS WAS FOUND APPROXIMATELY 9 MILES NORTH IN A PILE OF DEBRIS ON THE BANK OF THE SOUTH BRANCH. VIRGINIA WATKINS WAS FOUND APPROXIMATELY 2 MILES NORTH IN A PILE OF DEBRIS ON THE BANK OF THE SOUTH BRANCH.

31 NOBLE GUNNOE  
32 CARLOS W. MILAM

(TOGETHER)

BOTH WERE AT A CAMP SITE, LOCATED NEAR THE SOUTH FORK JUST OFF STATE SECONDARY ROUTE 7, APPROXIMATELY 8 MILES SOUTHEAST OF MOOREFIELD. BOTH WERE LAST SEEN AT APPROXIMATELY 11:30 P.M., THE NIGHT OF THE FLOOD, ON TOP OF THE CABIN. NOBLE GUNNOE WAS FOUND APPROXIMATELY 3 MILES NORTH IN A PILE OF DEBRIS ON THE BANK OF THE SOUTH FORK. CARLOS MILAM WAS RECOVERED APPROXIMATELY 1 MILE DOWN STREAM FROM WHERE HE WAS LAST SEEN. HIS BODY WAS COVERED WITH DEBRIS AND SILT. HE WAS RECOVERED JANUARY 25, 1986.

33 JAMES O. FLINN

HE LIVED IN MOOREFIELD, HAD BEEN RESCUED FROM THE WATER AND A SHORT TIME LATER, HAD A HEART ATTACK AND DIED.



# GRANT COUNTY

34 STELMAN WADE HARPER  
 35 HARRY HARPER  
 36 MARGARET PAINTER  
 37 BILL PAINTER (SURVIVED)  
 38 KENNETH SCHELL 37  
 39 RICHARD SCHELL 38  
 40 JERRY REGESTIER 39  
 41 TERRY REGESTIER 40  
 42 THOMAS JOE CLOWER 41  
 43 RICHARD FUNK 42  
 44 RONALD GATTO 43  
 45 TOM HYATT 44

(TOGETHER)

THESE 12 PEOPLE, FOR SOME REASON, WERE TOGETHER AT OR NEAR A HOUSE LOCATED NORTH OF HOPEVILLE AT THE INTERSECTION OF STATE ROUTE 28 AND STATE SECONDARY ROUTE 28/7. THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WERE RECOVERED ALONG THE BANKS OF THE NORTH FORK OF THE SOUTH BRANCH, NORTH OF HOPEVILLE. THOMAS JOE CLOWER, 1.5 MILES (ACROSS FROM THE SMOKE HOLE CAVERNS IN DEBRIS), KENNETH SCHELL, 1.75 MILES (WILD CAT STRAIGHT, IN A TREE), RONALD GATTO, 3.25 MILES (300 YARDS BELOW THE SMOKE HOLE BRIDGE, IN DEBRIS), STELMAN WADE HARPER, 4.25 MILES (BEHIND CAMP ECHO, IN DEBRIS). THE FOLLOWING 2 PERSONS WERE RECOVERED FROM AN ISLAND WHERE THE NORTH FORK OF THE SOUTH BRANCH AND THE SOUTH BRANCH FLOW TOGETHER, 5.25 MILES NORTH OF HOPEVILLE, RICHARD SCHELL AND JERRY REGESTIER. BOTH WERE IN DEBRIS. LARRY REGESTIER WAS FOUND 8 MILES NORTH OF HOPEVILLE ON THE BANK OF THE SOUTH BRANCH IN DEBRIS. RICHARD FUNK WAS RECOVERED NEAR CABINS COVERED WITH MUD AND SILT.

RICHARD FUNK, MARGARET PAINTER, HARRY HARPER AND TOM HYATT HAVE NOT BEEN FOUND.

4546 JAMES KILE

HE LIVED IN A FARM HOUSE NEAR CABINS. HE WAS FOUND 4 MILES NORTH ON THE BANK OF THE SOUTH BRANCH IN DEBRIS.

1547 JOHN MCMILLION duplicate  
 1748 PEARL LEWIS

(TOGETHER--LIVED IN PENDLETON COUNTY)

JOHN MCMILLION WAS FOUND 5.25 MILES NORTH OF HOPEVILLE ON AN ISLAND WHERE THE NORTH FORK OF THE SOUTH BRANCH AND THE SOUTH BRANCH FLOW TOGETHER, IN DEBRIS. PEARL LEWIS WAS FOUND 4.25 MILES NORTH OF HOPEVILLE ALONG THE BANK OF THE NORTH FORK OF THE SOUTH BRANCH IN DEBRIS.

## 489 UPSHER COUNTY

4047 JOSEPH GOULD  
 46

LIVED IN DOWNTOWN BUCKHANNON AND WAS IN HIS RESIDENCE. HE WAS ASKED TO LEAVE AND REFUSED. HIS MOTHER DID LEAVE THE RESIDENCE. HE WAS IN AN INTOXICATED



CONDITION AND WAS FOUND LAYING ON THE  
COUCH IN HIS RESIDENCE WHEN THE WATER  
WENT DOWN.

SHE WAS AT HER RESIDENCE IN ADRIAN, ALONG  
FRENCH CREEK. SHE LEFT HER RESIDENCE  
TO GO TO A NEIGHBORS AND MADE IT TO THE  
FRONT DOOR OF THE NEIGHBORS HOME AND THE  
WATER WASHED HER AWAY. SHE WAS FOUND  
APPROXIMATELY 1 MILE DOWN STREAM IN A  
TREE.

48  
47  
ELIZABETH LANE

Notes from phone call w/ SGT Odell (304) 746-2100

Another man was briefly listed as a flood  
fatality when it appeared that the flood caused  
a power outage that knocked out his  
life-support system in Mapleton Hospital.  
This fellow is not listed on this sheet.  
This may explain why fatalities + missing  
count was 48 for WV but is now

47 (44+3) (march 86 count: 41+6).

now  
- JAN 88 -