

FLOOD DAMAGE HERE ESTIMATED AT HALF MILLION

N. Wilkesboro Hard Hit As Yadkin Rises To New Levels There

BLAZES BREAK OUT; DESTROY LARGE PLANTS

Property Damage Estimated at Two Million

500 ARE SAID HOMELESS

Landslides Block Highways Over All of the Mountain Area

DEATHS ARE REPORTED

According to reports reaching here, North Wilkesboro seems to have been harder hit by the rampaging Yadkin than any other town in the river valley. The flood, which rose to record heights, swept over the lower section of the town and damaged 14 industrial plants. Two large plants, the Home Chair company and International Shoe company's tannery, were destroyed by fire which broke out as a result of the flood. Property damage in the town was estimated at \$2,000,000, and Mayor R. T. McNeill of North Wilkesboro, estimated that for Wilkes county alone the property damage would reach \$10,000,000. He said that 500 were homeless and that 2,500 were out of employment. The city called on the American Red Cross and aid was scheduled to have reached them from that source late Wednesday. In the meantime those who were destitute were cared for by residents of the community who suffered less serious hardships. The town, isolated by lack of telephone and telegraph communications, was also without water and light.

There were no reported deaths from the town, but three people were unaccounted for, according to Mr. McNeill.

Other stories of the devastating effects of the flood waters from other sections of the northwestern part of the state tell of harrowing experiences and escapes.

Landslides blocked highways over all of the mountain area. Four people were reported crushed to death in two landslides near Boone. Several others were injured.

The raging torrents in some places picked up houses and tossed them around like match boxes, according to witnesses. Hundreds of bridges were swept away.

An estimated 15 or 20 persons were drowned in Elizabethtown in Watauga county, a community of 200 or 300 people.

Linville, summer resort, reported considerable damage, but no casualties. Montreat and Ridgecrest, church assembly grounds,

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Get Vaccinated, Conserve Water Is Advice Here

The Surry county nurse will be in Elkin Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to administer vaccines to all who desire it, it was announced Thursday. The local health office is located upstairs at the City Hall.

There is no need to boil water for drinking purposes, it was announced, the county health officer having inspected the local filtering plant and found it to be okay in every way.

It was urged that Elkin residents use no more water than absolutely necessary due to the fact that many pipes are open, caused by the wrecking of buildings, and a water shortage is feared.

Mayor Issues Warning Against Looting Here

Mayor J. E. Poindexter issued a warning Wednesday afternoon concerning looting following the record-breaking flood.

Mayor Poindexter stated that every person caught carrying off anything of any nature that did not belong to him would be arrested and prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Police were instructed to keep a close lookout for vandals.

Due to the extremely heavy damage wrought by the flood, merchandise, equipment of various sorts, building material, etc., have been moved from flooded buildings into the open. Some reports of looting late Wednesday afternoon led to the Mayor's warning.

SEES FIANCEE LOSE HER LIFE

Yadkin River Claims Pretty Bride-to-Be of Harnett County Man

COUPLE WAS ELOPING

(Picture on Page Seven)
Yadkinville, Aug. 15—(Special)—A harrowing tale of how he watched his fiancée being torn from his grasp and engulfed in the swollen backwaters of the Yadkin river was told here early yesterday morning by Wade Gilbert, 24-year-old man of Angier, Harnett county, after he was rescued from the Buck Creek bridge this side of North Wilkesboro.

The victim was pretty blond-haired Opaline Smith, 18, also of Angier, who was on the way to Blowing Rock with Gilbert to spend their vacation. They were to have been married shortly, Gilbert said.

Gilbert, brought to Yadkinville by Solicitor Avalon E. Hall early this morning and given treatment at the Yadkin Clinic, told in a still shaky voice how the tragedy happened.

"We approached the creek bridge from the east side heading into North Wilkesboro, about 2 o'clock this morning," he said, "when I noticed a small amount of the flood waters on the bridge. As I started across I could feel the impact of the water hitting the floor boards and the motor of the car."

"The car drowned out as a result. I finally managed to get the car started again in a few minutes, and backed two or three

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JONESVILLE WATER FAILS

Electric Service Is Restored Thursday to Yadkin Town

HOUSE WENT UPSTREAM

Jonesville, after being without water and electricity Wednesday and Wednesday night, saw electric service restored Thursday morning, but had no water Thursday afternoon, it was reported.

A house on the Jonesville side of the river, owned by Lum Shores and located near the end of the old bridge, was picked up by the water, but instead of being taken down stream, was backed up stream about 200 feet and deposited on a new site.

Due to its location, Jonesville escaped the full fury of the flood. Yadkinville and Boonville were still without electricity at last reports.

RECORD FLOOD Top photo shows the record flood of Wednesday at its peak shortly before noon Wednesday as the angry Yadkin did an estimated half-million in damage to Elkin alone. This photo, made from the top of the Sydnor-Spainhour building, looks southeast. At left may be seen the top of the Carolina Ice & Fuel Co. At extreme right is the Elkin Bottling Company building. Bottom photo shows wreckage of buildings, gas storage tanks and other debris which was banked against the Hugh Chatham bridge. Elkin is in the background. This photo was made before the flood reached its peak.—(Tribune Photos.) (Other flood pictures on pages 4, 9 and 12.)



Elkin People Take Disaster In Stride As Flood Rolls On

The flood that couldn't happen again—the much talked about flood of 1916—played a repeat performance in Elkin Wednesday, only more so.

But despite the fact that the muddy, swiftly rising waters of the Yadkin were busy wreaking an estimated half million dollars' worth of damage in Elkin alone, Elkin's citizens, many of them suffering direct loss, couldn't be gotten down.

One man was overheard complaining in mock seriousness that he had two handkerchiefs in the laundry, while a couple of other people spent part of their time standing on Bridge street attempting to hitch hike to Jonesville over a thoroughfare that was many feet under water.

But Elkin is like that. The choicest crop of original jokes ever to be raised here grew out of the failure of the Elkin National Bank. And Wednesday's flood, as great a disaster in losses as the bank's failure, failed to bring a depression in spirits, although everyone realized its seriousness. Folks just seemed to take the attitude that there was nothing that could be done about it, so why run around with a long face?

One story that was making the rounds concerned a negro man who was aiding in removing property from one of the doom-

ed buildings down in the bottom. Due to the rapidly rising water he took off his trousers and shirt on dry ground. Then he entered the building and started work.

The water rose rapidly. So rapidly, in fact, that spectators had to throw rocks against the building to warn those inside to get out.

The colored man came to the door. All around him swirled muddy water. Somewhere between him and Burch Station were his shirt and pants!

L. G. Meed, of the Carolina Ice & Fuel Co., did what he could at the ice plant. Then, as the water rose higher and higher, he left the scene and spent part of the morning sitting in his automobile, parked in front of The Tribune office. He didn't seem particularly worried, but he asked members of The Tribune staff several times if the ice plant was still there? And if he could have delivered all the orders for ice he received while sitting there, his plant would probably have had to run overtime.

Down on West Main street at the creek bridge motorists insisted on attempting to drive across the bridge, although the street and bridge were flooded. As fast as the cars would hit the water

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JUDGMENT IN CASE FRAMED

Conditionally Grants Joint Petition in Dam Case to Modify Order

WAY IS STILL BARRED

Judge Allen Gwyn Tuesday night at Winston-Salem framed a judgment in the Yadkin county-City of High Point dam case which conditionally granted the joint petition of the city and county for a modification of a restraining order to the extent that they could enter into a transaction for lands.

Judge Gwyn said his judgment, when it has been signed by the parties, will in effect "turn green one of the two red lights" facing High Point in its procedure with construction of a hydroelectric dam. But, he pointed out, High Point must turn green the other light before it can proceed.

Second "red light" facing High Point is a restraining order obtained by J. W. McQuinn, a High Point taxpayer, Duke Power Company, and others on which a petition for modification will be heard in Guilford superior court. This restraining order was granted on the theory that High Point's acquiescence to federal power commission license and jurisdiction in its original plans for the hydro-electric project was illegal inasmuch as the Yadkin

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Water Goes 18 Inches Higher Than In 1916; Storage Tank Burns

WHITE SWAN LAUNDRY GOES OUT

Water Rises So Rapidly That Many Are Caught Napping; Yellow Flood Enters Many Basements of Main Street Buildings; CCC Boys Prove Big Aid in Removing Property

RIVER IS NOW BACK IN ITS BANKS

Topping the 1916 flood by nearly two feet, an angry Yadkin river Wednesday sent a swirling torrent of yellow water roaring through Elkin to do damage estimated at half a million dollars.

Numerous families were made homeless by the flood, while filling stations, oil storage tanks and several large buildings were swept away. The South Bridge street approach to the old bridge across the Yadkin went out as the flood reached its crest.

Early Wednesday morning the flood waters were beginning to flow across South Bridge street at its lowest point in front of the large, modern building housing the White Swan laundry. A few hours later the laundry building had been swept away, as had the R. L. Church filling station, Coke Marion's Esso Service, a cafe and numerous other buildings nearby.

So swiftly did the water rise that those affected in the lower side of town had to work fast to save anything. The Elkin Motor Car Company, local Ford dealers, managed to clear their building of new cars and cars in their repair department. Their used car lot was inundated so quickly that few cars could be gotten out.

Families living in the upper story of the building housing the Elkin Bottling Company were evacuated as the water steadily rose to new levels.

As the yellow flood waters crept relentlessly upward, merchants on Main street worked frantically to clear their basements. All along the street clerks and volunteers, including boys from the Elkin CCC camp, worked like beavers to move stocks to upper floors. But even then much damage was done as the Yadkin moved in.

In the J. C. Penney Co. basement, and in other basements on either side the water stood several feet in depth. The Smithy store, on lower East Main street, saw their basement flooded almost to the street floor, and water ran in the front door on the east side of the building. Contents of the basement, which consisted of general merchandise, sugar, fat meats, feed and other stocks, were a total loss.

On the west side of the square along West Main street, numerous stores reported flood damage to their basements. The water entered the basement store of Sydnor-Spainhour, flooding it to a depth of over a foot. Due to a slightly higher elevation the Surry Hardware Company escaped flooding of their basement, but water was in the basements of Eagle Furniture Company and Hayes & Speas to a depth of several feet.

The swiftly moving flood waters made a shambles of the Elkin Lumber and Manufacturing Company, washing away huge stacks of lumber, and carrying buildings down stream. One warehouse, filled with lumber, was lodged against supports of the new bridge.

Surry Hardware also suffered tremendous loss of lumber and building material. Their warehouses, located to the rear of the store, lacked only a few feet of being completely inundated.

Things were happening fast as the angry river gained momentum. A large gasoline storage tank of the Texas Oil Company, located next to the White Swan Laundry, tilted slowly over and went out about the middle of the morning. It was carried to the Chatham ball park where it lodged against the grand stand. A few minutes later it blew up when it was said to have come in contact with live electric wires, sending a huge column of black smoke high into the heavens. The

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Flood and Things Cause Tribune To Be Day Late

The Tribune is exactly one day late this week, having been delayed by conditions caused by the flood, including lack of power and delay necessitated in getting plates made of the pictures of the flood which this issue contains.

The Tribune cameraman spent practically all of Wednesday photographing the flood from every vantage point, wading almost waist deep in the water and climbing over buildings to get the best possible shots for Tribune readers.

Once these pictures were developed, power failed and it was late in the afternoon before the pictures could be printed. However, once this was done, another staff member started to Winston-Salem with them to have printing plates made. Leaving Elkin at 8:00 p. m., he reached Winston-Salem at 12:30 a. m., after having to detour around by Lexington when he found the Yadkin river bridge, east of Yadkinville, closed.

Upon reaching Winston-Salem it was necessary to get the engraving shop staff out of bed. He arrived back in Elkin, via Lexington, Thursday morning.

In addition to the flood pictures on the front page, other pictures will be found on pages 4, 9 and 12.