

Employees In Flooded Area Seek Payments

Test Cases Heard Here About Claims of Person Thrown Out of Work

A hearing was held here Friday afternoon to determine whether or not over 1,000 people in North Wilkesboro thrown out of work because of flood and fires are eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.

Attorney Zeb Gambill, of Winston-Salem, claims deputy assigned as a special commissioner, conducted the hearing in the offices of the employment service and the evidence taken was sent to the Unemployment commission in Raleigh for an early ruling in order to expedite matters, he said.

Present at the hearing were a number of executives of industries closed here because of the flood and fires and one employee from each firm who had filed claim for unemployment benefits.

Gambill stated in the outset of the hearing that it was for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the employees were eligible for benefits and said it was the first case in the state under the law relative to catastrophes. He read from section 5 of the act as follows: "An individual shall be disqualified for benefits—if unemployment is due to fire, where found by the commission to constitute a catastrophe, a flood, a cyclone, a tornado or other catastrophe."

Present at the hearing were J. D. Moore, president of Home Chair company, which was destroyed by fire in Wednesday's flood waters of the Yadkin; Frank E. Johnson, superintendent of International Shoe company tannery, which was also destroyed by fire and flood Wednesday; J. B. Carter, secretary-treasurer of Oak Furniture company, which has suspended operations because of water damage; J. R. Hix, secretary of American Furniture company, which has suspended operations because of flood damage; and Cecil Adamson, office manager of Wilkes Hosiery Mills, which closed because of the water supply being disrupted.

The evidence taken in the hearing from the employers and one claimant from each establishment was for the purpose of getting a complete survey of the flood and fires in order that the commission might make a ruling in the light of conditions as existed here as they related to the law.

J. D. Moore, of Home Chair company, and Boyd E. Stout, plant superintendent who had filed claim for benefits, were the first witnesses. They described in detail the flood and the fire which destroyed the large factory in the midst of the highest waters on record on the Yadkin here. The opinion was expressed that the fire originated from a transformer and damage was estimated at \$200,000. The plant employs 275 normally.

Allie McGlamery's claim was the test case for Wilkes Hosiery Mills, which is located on grounds above the flooded region but which has not been operating because of the city's water system being out of commission following the flood.

William H. Bryant was the claimant from Oak Furniture company examined. J. B. Carter, secretary-treasurer of the company and who is also a member of the city council, described the flood and estimated damage to the plant of \$100,000. Flood damage to materials and equipment was so great, he said, that it will not be able to resume operations for an indefinite period. 175 of that company's employees are out of work.

J. R. Hix, secretary of American Furniture company and who is also president of the Bank of North Wilkesboro, said his company's loss was about \$100,000 and that 300 employees are out of work until the plant can be put into operation again, which may be a few weeks. Paul Luffman, an employee, was used as the test claim.

Frank E. Johnson, tannery superintendent, told of the loss by fire and flood of the International Shoe company's large plant here. 145 regular employees were thrown out of work. Company officials declined to make an estimate of damage, which outsiders say will run between \$500,000 and a million dollars. The claim of Thomas E. Clonch, leather roller for 14 years, was used as a test case.

All witnesses said the flood was the worst ever to visit this section and general estimates of total damage in North Wilkesboro by the industrialists was between two and three million

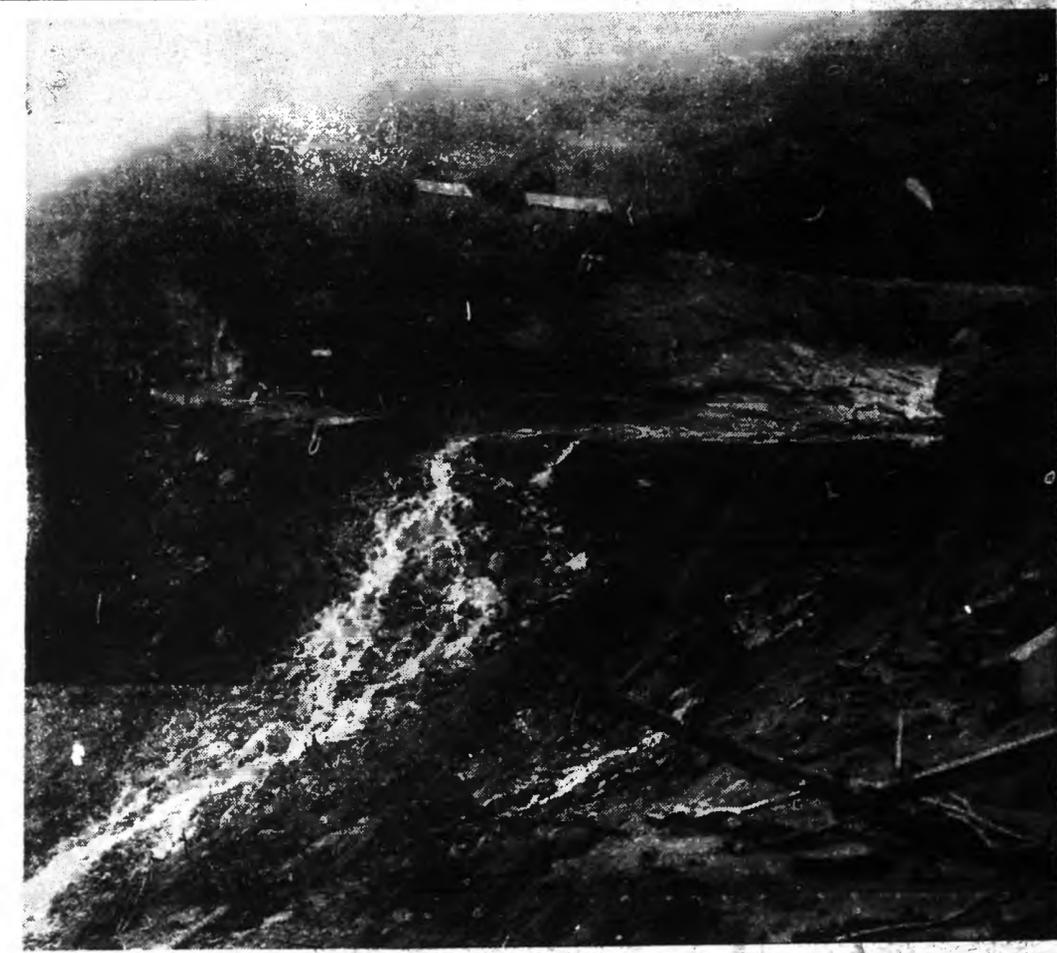
THE JOURNAL-PATRIOT

For mutual advantage do your buying in North Wilkesboro, the trading center of Northwestern North Carolina.

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Rehabilitation In Flood Area Gets Under Way

Scenes of Destruction In Path of the Flood



Where a slide killed three and swept away three houses and a big section of highway 421 only 300 yards east of Deep Gap, this picture gives some idea of the tremendous power of the slides in mountains west and north of this

city. Many such scenes as the above were visited by a Journal-Patriot reporter in the mountains yesterday. The a-

bove picture was taken for the Winston-Salem Journal by Paul Westen, of Boone.



A graphic view which shows something of the extent of the Yadkin flood waters here Wednesday. The box car in the above picture was swept from the tracks on the local railroad

yards by sheer force of the torrent. Note the corn, which was laid flat on the ground by flood waters.—(Winston-Salem Journal photo).

Flood Stricken People Are Being Cared For

Red Cross Is Aiding Flood Victims Here

Every Reasonable Aid Will Be Given People Who Lost Homes, Furnishings

Wilkes County Chapter of the American Red Cross met Friday night to review the flood situation. Assurance was given that the Red Cross and cooperating agencies would render every reasonable assistance to those who suffered losses in the flood disaster.

I. Whicker, chairman of the local chapter presided and R. G. Finley, disaster relief chairman, described the situation which exists and outlined plans for assistance to the flood stricken people in this county. A disaster relief office has been set up on the second floor of the Landis Tire Store on C street in North Wilkesboro. This location is across the street from the post office.

It is urged that all families in the county who suffered flood losses and who are unable to fully meet their own needs register promptly at the disaster relief office for assistance. Some sufferers in remote sections of the county will probably not have opportunity to read this information, and hence the news should

be carried to those parties by neighbors or people in the communities.

Mrs. Margaret Cornell Leprester, of the National Red Cross, is here to help the local chapter during the period of this disaster and for the present the office will be open from eight o'clock in the mornings until six in the evenings.

Two additional workers from the National Red Cross will arrive within the next day or so and will aid in investigating the needs of the families affected by the flood. In every instance assistance will be given on the basis of individual family need. It is expected that the family will use its full resources of cash and

credit, to reestablish their homes and the Red Cross will assist in filling that gap between what the family can do for themselves and what the actual needs may be.

In assisting with the repair and rebuilding of homes and purchasing household furniture and furnishings or clothing, disbursement orders will be issued upon local stores whenever possible and at the choice of the person receiving the disbursing order.

Preliminary estimate of number of families in Wilkes who may need assistance is between 250 and 300. Probably 100 of this number lost their homes and all furnishings.

No campaign for funds will be made by local Red Cross, but do (Continued on page eight)

Flood Stricken Residents Maintain High Spirits Here

Many Agencies Cooperating To Help People In Emergency Period

With reports coming in steadily from all sections of North Carolina telling of tremendous losses in the flood last Tuesday night and Wednesday, North Wilkesboro people were about the task of rehabilitation today with grim determination.

As casualties and flood losses were reported, it became more evident that only one person in Wilkes was killed in the flood, that being Miss Opaline Smith, of Angler, who was drowned on Cub Creek bridge east of Wilkesboro.

The eight persons killed near Deep Gap on the headwaters of Stony Fork Creek were residents of Watauga county.

Meanwhile, many highways in northwestern North Carolina remain closed because of flood damage. The only highway leading out of Wilkes on the north side of the river now open is number 18 to Sparta. Highway 421 is closed to Boone and will be for at least two months. Route 268 to Elkin has been opened and 18 is open as far as Glendale Springs. Highway officials indicated it will be opened to Jefferson as soon as a temporary bridge can be laid across New River. Highways 421, 115, 16 and 18, which lead out of Wilkes on the south side of the Yadkin, are open.

Boone can be reached only by Laurel Springs, Booneville and West Jefferson.

Highway Commissioner J. G. Hackett said today that highway forces are doing all in their power to open the main highways and forces have been at work continuously since the flood waters receded. The head of the bridge department of the state highway commission on a visit here said that three weeks will make a big difference in the bridge situation and that bridges on important routes will be replaced as rapidly as possible. Meanwhile, temporary bridges are being laid where practical.

The American Red Cross, the Welfare department with the aid of the Surplus Commodities Corporation and the WPA, and the C. C. Camps have aided greatly in alleviating the situation here. Red Cross activities outlined in another article in this newspaper).

Charles McNeill, Wilkes county welfare officer, said Saturday that over 50 families who lost heavily in the flood were being helped from food and clothing furnished by the surplus commodities corporation. The warehouse of food stocks here was located in the Scott Cheese factory building and was in the flood zone, making it necessary that new supplies be sent here by truck. A. E. Langston, of Raleigh, state director of surplus commodities distribution, and Charles Wilson, of Winston-Salem, came here to assist in distribution in cooperation with the welfare department.

Garments made in the sewing rooms of WPA under direction of Miss Ila Holman, women's division supervisor, are being used for clothing those who lost everything in the flood.

The number of homes gone from North Wilkesboro was 29 and the number for the entire county was estimated at more than 100. About 150 other families lost heavily in food and furnishings when their homes were flooded but not totally destroyed.

A crew of 35 C. C. Camp members from the Laurel Springs camp have been kept on duty here all the time since the flood to help police in handling traffic and to assist with relief work. Today this force was increased to 150 men who will be used indefinitely for clean-up work and for helping in rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, industrial plants in the flood zone have crews busily engaged in clean-up work and salvaging of materials. With the exception of International Shoe company tannery and Home Chair company, which were destroyed by fire in the flood, it is expected (Continued on page eight)

Flood Stricken Get Attention At The Capital

Representatives Burgin And Doughton Confer Relative To Flood Aid

Washington, Aug. 17.—North Carolina House members in the storm and flood stricken area of western North Carolina moved quickly today to get relief to victims of the area affected.

At a meeting held today, Representatives Burgin, Bulwinkle, Weaver, and Doughton outlined a program that had been followed by which relief will be received. Acting as dean of the delegation, Representative Doughton issued a statement outlining action that had been taken and what persons affected should do to get relief. The main point is that the WPA and the CCC will co-operate with other agencies. The statement of Mr. Doughton follows:

How To Get Aid
"As soon as first reports reached Washington of the appalling conditions in our state, and especially the western section, resulting from the recent devastating floods, each of the representatives named became active in an effort to secure promptly every possible governmental assistance. Through the Reconstruction Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps through the War department, the Farm Credit Administration, the Reconstruction Finance corporation, the Federal Surplus Commodities corporation, state welfare people and every agency we thought could possibly render assistance. These different agencies have been instructed from Washington to give all the relief possible and also to ascertain the facts and keep Washington informed as to the needs and what assistance is being rendered.

WPA Assisting
"The WPA states that their forces are now being augmented, furnished with additional funds and instructed to transfer from the work in which they have been previously engaged and devote every possible effort to relief work in the flood-stricken sections. They are to assist in repairing roads, bridges, water supply facilities, and in any and every other way they can render the greatest assistance.

"We have requested and urged that those not hitherto on the WPA rolls and who now, as a result of the flood conditions, need relief or help be placed on the rolls and given work in carrying forward the program of relief.

"It has been requested that all the Federal agencies who can in any way render assistance in this serious situation be co-ordinated and utilized where they can do the greatest good in the shortest time. We will leave no efforts unemployed here to secure in every possible way the help which we realize from reports we have received, is so badly needed. Thousands of people have lost their homes, their property and the means by which they earn a living from causes for which they are in no way responsible, by what, according to reports, is the most destructive and devastating calamity that has ever befallen our section.

"If those in authority and those who know conditions will keep us informed of the situation and give us as fully in detail the relief needed, we will co-operate to the fullest extent of our ability in doing everything humanly possible to speedily relieve or ameliorate the terrible conditions now existing throughout the flood-stricken territory of our state."

HATE THEM
"I hate those impromptu complications, don't you?"
"What do you mean?"
"Those who make up as they go along."