

ALL TELL STORIES OF HEROIC DEEDS

Survivors of the Flood Disaster Proud of Record Made by Brothers

NEEDS OF OTHERS PUT FIRST

No One Has Cause to Be Ashamed of Spirit Displayed in Agonizing Time—Some Fearful Experiences Brought to Light

Chicago.—"Women and children first."

This world-old cry, made more memorable when the Titanic disaster thrilled the world, echoed over the flood-stricken districts of Ohio and Indiana. Refugees who reached Chicago told innumerable stories of men risking their lives to save the women and children.

The unwritten law of the sea was observed on the inland rivers. The entire tenor of stories told by refugees was one of bravery, self-sacrifice and devotion to the weak and unprotected. "Women and children first."

Only One of Many.

"What is your name?" asked the register who received refugees at Dayton, O., of a slender person in men's clothing.

"Norma Thurma," was the reply. Norma came in with Ralph Myers, his wife and little baby. Myers had climbed a telegraph pole first. He let down a rope to his wife, who tied it to a meal sack which contained their baby, three months old. Myers pulled the rope with its precious burden up and then let it down to aid his wife. Holding on to two thin wires, he traveled across the cable a full block to safety.

Whole Families on Roofs.

All of the first terrible night, while the city of Peru, Ind., was in inky darkness because of the cutting off of the gas and electric light supply, men, women and children, and in some instances entire families, lay flat where they had crawled to the roofs of their homes, waiting for daylight to bring relief. Hundreds of others were jammed in the courthouses and lodge buildings, which were in the only four blocks of the city not under water.

The first thought of rescue parties was to send into the town boats to carry to safety those who were threatened with drowning. Telephone communication had been opened with points in the residence and business districts and from those marooned in buildings it was learned that many persons, including some women who held their children in their arms, had been on roofs exposed to an almost freezing temperature all night. One man telephoned he had seen several fall from exhaustion and slip into the water. It was the purpose of the rescuers first to reach those in greatest danger. Hundreds of others huddled together at the courthouses, although in want of food and water, were to be taken later.

Heroes in All Classes.

If a great loss of life was averted at Peru, this is due to some heroes of the Owen Wister type, river men and water rats from surrounding lakes, who by unbelievable prowess with a pair of fall axes rescued the doomed, and in splendid harmony with their virile efforts abated the spirit of women who valiantly helped, supremely oblivious to distressing surroundings. Among the latter are Mrs. R. H. Bouslog, Mrs. R. C. Edwards, and Mrs. Albert Shirk, all three wives of local millionaires, and also leaders in the self-sacrifices required to provide sandwiches, coffee and smiles to a panic stricken multitude in emergency quarters.

Among the boatmen two brothers, Charley and Ted Knight, are praised on the corners left in Peru. Ted, with W. A. Huff, a dentist, braved the turbulent waters of the Wabash river, cutting off Peru on the south side and rendering uncertain the fate of the inhabitants of South Peru. According to the report the two rescuers reached the opposite shore alive, after having been overturned several times.

The Men on the Roof.

There were two heroes on the Dayton floods. Their names are M. B. Stohl and C. D. Williamson, and they are employees of the American Telegraph and Telephone company.

Stohl is a wire chief at Dayton. He reached the Dayton office of his company late the night before the floods came. The rush of the waters put all the telephone batteries and power out of commission. Forgetting thoughts of escape, Stohl rummaged around until he found a line man's test set. With this he rigged up a sending and receiving apparatus, and set in upon the wire on the roof of the four-story building. This wire connected him with Phononet, a testing station eight miles away. Thus he established communication with Williamson, whose batteries were still working.

Then Stohl sent messages from the flooded city, otherwise cut off from communication with the outside world. All night he stuck to his post. All next day he remained. The following noon found him still on the roof of a building whose foundations were being sapped by the waters.

There he stayed in the rain and cold, with the prospect of death staring him

Optimistic View.

"Too bad!" said the optimist to the man next to him on the bus, whose hat had been blown into the river; "but it might have been worse."

"I can't see how," replied the hatless one, with a stare.

"Why, it might have been my hat."

He Knew It Already.

Wife (bitterly)—When you married me you didn't marry a cook. Husband—Well, you needn't rub it to me.

in the face every moment. He sobbed a strong man's sob as he told his tale of death and desolation; of floating wreckage bearing men, women and children doomed to death; of dead bodies borne upon the crest of the waters; of pitiless sights, in themselves enough to unnerve the bravest of men. But he stuck to his post.

Surgeon Tells Graphic Story.

Dr. Ray B. Harris, a police surgeon of Dayton, Ohio, and one of the chief workers among the injured immediately after the cyclone, told a graphic story of the sufferings of the hundreds who were hurt.

"When we began to collect the bodies we realized for the first time the fearful state of affairs," said the physician. "It was as gruesome a task as I ever worked at. Some of the bodies were twisted into frightful shapes and some had pieces of wreckage—wood and iron—driven through their bodies. 'Dozens were smothered to death, some were burned, still others were crushed and beaten to death by the flying timbers. 'Every physician in the city, and even the medical students, were at work Sunday night and all day Monday. I impressed two dentists myself, although I didn't want any teeth drawn. They worked like Trojans, too."

"Some of the taxicab drivers thought it was a golden opportunity to reap a harvest, and demanded huge sums for carrying the injured to the hospitals. 'The doctors wouldn't stand for anything like that, and I personally thrashed two drivers who presumed to haggle."

Another husky young doctor had an argument with a chauffeur, who demanded \$5 apiece for conveying two injured women to a hospital. When he would not yield the physician seized a piece of board and knocked the man senseless with it. Then he took the chauffeur to the hospital with the women and ministered to him.

It is such incidents as this that evidence the fearful night of terror and panic and the day of sorrow that followed.

Hang to Roof Thirty Hours.

After hanging to the roof of their home for thirty hours, with a strong wind blowing and a heavy snow falling, August Schmidt, wife and two children were rescued. None of them could move a muscle, being chilled through. They were removed to Van Cleave School, where hundreds of other rescued were taken.

"I'd have fallen into the water if it hadn't been for daddy," exclaimed the little girl, who was first of the four to recover sufficiently to talk.

"When the water came into the house we had to climb on the roof. Daddy held me and mamma held brother. Oh, it was cold. I thought I was going to die, but daddy kept hold of me."

A little boy, who, during the night clung in full sight of the rescuers, was rescued. He probably will die. The little fellow was discovered after the flood had risen so high he could not weather the waters.

Heroic Rescues Common.

From all parts of Dayton come stories of heroic rescues. The stolid volunteers pay no attention to them. All of them for three days have constantly offered their lives to save others. Several of these men have given their lives on rescue work. Their names are unknown. Watchers on the banks saw them trying to reach persons in floating houses, saw their boats upset and the men go down.

Late in the day a large frame house floated down the river. Four women were in the windows. As they neared the Main street bridge they waved at the crowd on the banks and the building struck the pieces. There was a swirl in the murky waters and a little farther down stream the debris appeared, but none of the women.

Victims Are Cheerful.

One of the remarkable features was the cheerful spirit with which flood victims viewed their plight. This was Dayton's first great flood in many years. Much of the submerged area had been considered safe from high water, but as the majority of residents of these sections looked out on all sides upon a great sweep of muddy, swiftly moving water, they seemed undisturbed.

In some of the poorer sections the attitude of the marooned was not so cheerful. As a motor boat passed before the second floor of one partly submerged house a man leaped out and threatened to shoot unless they took off his wife and a baby that had just been born. The woman, almost dying, was let down from the window by a rope and taken to a place of refuge.

Further on, members of a motor boat party were startled by shots in the second floor of a house about which five feet of water swirled. The boat was stopped and a man peered from the window of the house.

"Why are you shooting?" he was asked.

"Oh, just amusing myself shooting at rats that come upstairs. When are you going to take me out of here?" he replied.

Go Insane, Slay Families.

There were stories of insanity caused by the flood at Dayton. A father had killed his four children and his wife and then leaped into the flood.

Children had been born in boats that were carrying their mothers to

An Asperser.

"I've found that Jinks is a hard drinker."

"You surprise me. I thought his reputation for sobriety was above suspicion."

"But, you see, he can't get any other kind to drink but hard water."

Keep Your Eye on Your Hat.

Bill—The ancient Britons often wore the dragon, or serpent, as a helmet crest.

Jill—In those days, when a fellow went into a restaurant he wouldn't be so apt to have head-gear exchanged as he is now, I should say."

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