Sou. Serre. July 6, 1939

Sou. Ans. Distress Call from Hills

Doctors, Nurses, Food, Police
sent.

Acting Mayor Broaddoes radio call over WNAS
offer to stricken Breathitt Co. area as all help from
area can give, as did mayor E. Reed Wilson for Lexington.

15 doctors, 5 nurses
equipped with medicines
food supplies. The doctors
young internees from city
Hospital, nurses city employees

"Fris heavy duty trucks
from Works Dept., loaded with
food ready to start.

After conferring with cree
Harris, director of WNAS
Mr. Broaddoes radio call
for word in funds for
Communities,

George H. Goodman, State W.P.A. Director, ordered trucks & workers dispatched from Paintsville to Frozen Creek. Appeal made to boat owners via Herrington Salee area to send boats by truck. Mr. Goodman assured mayor's corn that it could raise any number of relief workers.

Six Louisville embalmers left with equipment to assist in caring for dead in Breathitt Co.

Miss Elsie mantle, exec. Red Cross, rec'd word from Wash. that 12 Red Cross workers, including Morris R. Reddy, ass't dir. of disaster relief were in the field.
July 6, 1939

"Relief sent to strucken Territory"

Relief agencies of state and nation mobilized for success of two Eastern Ky communities hit by one of worst floods in recent history of state.

The Ky. River country centering around Jackson, County, part of Breathitt, and tributaries that empty into the Ky. in that vicinity.

The area most severely hit centered around the headquarters of frozen Troublesome & Quicksand creeks, near Jackson. Houses were washed away in the wall of water that swept down the mis., creeks, hollows, and roads in large areas.
Breadthitt, Rowan + Carter were destroyed, trains were being detoured.
Areas hardest hit in Breadthitt were Jackson + frozen creeks.
Dr. P.E. Blackler, Asst., State Board of Health, sends medical supplies, equipment + medical aid to area.
The Red Cross sends aid + Red Cross officials at Washington in close touch.
July 7, 1939

Graphic Story of Flood Horror in Breathitt County
(10 Photographs)

1. Ralph Brady, reporter, and Art Alfieri, photographers for C & O, reached Buckett, Ky., on way to Jackson about 10:30 P.M. to see what debris stream bridge while stock pictures

2. Few miles further on, at Van Cleare, Ky., on highway 15, we saw what looked like barn and were forced to abandon car because barn blocked way.

3. At Van Cleare a house of 11 rooms, belonging to Mr. Hatton, was overturned, Mrs. Hatton, with 3 children made escape when the house lodged against a barn.
July 6, 1939

"Breatheitt Flood"

Breatheitt and Powell Counties
were night covered early
morning flood toll at 92
dead + missing. Breatheitt
authorities fear 40 more dead
street fear final toll may
be 100.

flood hit Breatheitt
(around 3 o'clock in)
around 3 o'clock in
morning walls of water
as high as 2 ft. rolled
down the valleys without
warning, the result of an
Eastern Ky. Cloudburst
that released up to 2.89
miches of rain in 3 or 4 hrs.,
Breatheitt County Sheriff
Walter Heaton said 64 were
missing at back 16 mi. west
of Jackson, where two forks
of frozen creek merge.
Sheriff Heaton said.
the property damage in Breathitt County in this country $1,000,000.

50 homes washed away
in frozen creeks alone.

The post offices at
Stevenson & Rousseau were
washed away. Bottom
land was destroyed &
covered with debris. One
highway bridge & washed
out + two rendered unfit
for service.

A C-J reporter & photographer
left Winchester at 4:30 P.M.
+ the normal journey of
an hour required eight
hours + thirty minutes.

They had to leave their
automobiles 15 miles from
Jackson. They used boats
boat at several points before arriving at Jackson at midnight.

W. H. Pelfrey, Breckinridge Storekeeper at Van Cleve, on Van Cleve Creek, a few miles west of Jackson, told of watching a 20 ft. wall of water surge down valley, sweeping away his store, a garage and 6 automobiles. His house was caught up in the surge along with the store. The house broke loose when it struck an obstruction, this son, holding 1 yr. old Charles in his arms, took to the water. The child was knocked from his father's arms and carried...
down stream. The father and mother worked their way to safety.

Rev. Selia McConnell, head of Mt. Bible Institute, related that water carried away college beds, including a dormitory housing 25 boys and girls. Three teachers clung to beds for distance of four miles were carried out of creek for 2 1/4 mi. down

RIVER before rescued.

Rainfall over area seemingly averaged 2.5 inches, such rainfall in the narrow Mt. valley, resulted in the so-called "flash" floods which send
the small streams up to
or 15 feet within half an
hour. Homes in these
valleys are frequently
built on bottom land
near creeks because of
steepness of hills behind.
Dr. Sewell, Breathitt Co.
Health officer reports
it will be hard to get
up to heads of creeks to
determine exact loss of
life, etc.

The area was roughly
the identical hit early
this year to a lesser extent.
It is slightly north of
area struck in 1927 by a
similar downpour which
claimed 19 lives in North
fork Valley alone. The rest
central side of area struck lies in Cumberland National Forest area, designed to minimize damage from such sudden falls of water. Like the 1927 flood, the current disaster struck in darkness & carried sleeping occupants of houses to death.
HEALTH ORDER SPEEDS FLOOD AREA BURIALS.

Morehead property loss set at $1,000,000.00 Breathitt toll up.

Health authorities and Red Cross workers Friday sought to prevent disease outbreak as searching parties poked into Eastern Kentucky's sloppy slit and matted debris for bodies of forty odd flood victims still missing.

While fifty-five bodies have been listed by the Associated Press as recovered twenty-five of Rowan County's dead, twenty-eight of Breathitts and two in Lewis County-officials feared a sizable number of Breathitt's thirty-four unaccounted for never might be found since so many were swept miles away into the Kentucky River from rampaging Frozen Creek.

Meanwhile, silent groups of relatives stoically buried their dead, a procedure hastened by health officers' orders designed to head off contamination.

FLOATING BODIES SEEN.

Approximately ten bodies of Breathitt County victims were recovered at Beattyville, in adjoining Lee County. Police Chief, Virgil Smith, said other bodies were reported seen floating in the Kentucky River.

Sheriff Water Deaton estimated seventy-five persons drowned in Frozen Creek Valley. Dr. P. E. Blackerby, assistant Ky. Health Commissioner, said it would be impossible to reckon the full loss of life and property for several days.

U.S. AID HELD URGENT.

Red Cross Headquarters in Washington, estimated 1,000 families were in need of assistance in the stricken areas- 500 in Rowan, 200 in Lewis, 100 in Breathitt and the remainder in other counties.

State and Federal agencies cooperated with the Red Cross in caring for the homeless- money and commodities were sent in as were physicians, nurses and embalmers.

So powerful was the force of the water that all but three houses in the Keck community, twenty miles north of here, were destroyed. Wilburst, near Keck, virtually was swept away. Van Cleve, another Frozen Creek Village, met a similar fate.
It was in these communities that most of Breathitt County's human toll was taken.

Three mission teachers at Van Cleve were carried away by the water wall and rescued in the Kentucky River after clinging to loose timbers for four hours. So great was the force of the Frozen Creek tide that one of the women was swept upstream in the Kentucky River for four miles, the other, caught in another current, went downstream.

PAGE 1, COL. 4. by JANE DIXON (TIMES SPECIAL WRITER.) JACKSON, KY., JULY 7, 1939.

Crier, on loud speaker heralding lost baby reward of $200.00—awakens flood-exhausted Jackson.

Shorty after dawn today—while the mountains still wore their hoods of gossamer mist, the voice of a crier—a-loud speaker attached to a radio car—shattered the morning stillness. It reverberated along the steep streets of this stalwart little town awakening weary men and women to the realization of stark x tragedy.

The town heavily lidded and sorrow logged, stirred uneasily. Forms began to take shape in the dim canyons that thread the stricken community. It seems like everyone has lost someone near and dear.

This morning a half-dozen trained nurses in the Public Health Service, including Louisville's Edwina Mattingly, field nurse from the State Department of Health, met with executives of the department to consider plans for attending the sick and preventing spread of disease. The group will work up and down the creek and its tributaries.

Immediately victims are identified the bodies are wrapped in simple cotton shrouds made by N.Y.A. workers, placed in pine coffins built by the young men of the C.C.C. transported to family burying yards and interred. Identification of the drowned is becoming increasingly difficult due to the lapse of time, the battering of the waters and the intense heat.

Clothing so valuable a help in establishing identity, is almost a missing factor, as a majority of the victims were awakened from sound sleep to find themselves trap-
ped in tumbling houses with no chance to dress.

Of the eight dead lately reported five were found in the Frozen Creek Area about five miles from Jackson, and the other three at Beattyville, fifty miles down the Ky. River from the scene of the disaster. Three of the eight were children.

Search is slowed by the hysteria of those who have lost their nearest and dearest. Those bereaved have not the patience to join an organized search, but wander the creek and river banks day and night risking their lives in the muck, the back waters and quicksand in a desperate effort to find their lost ones. All attempts to persuade them of the futility of such effort is useless and they carry on through a haze of pain until they collapse of exhaustion.

Hope has been abandoned for the missing of the little village of Van Cleve, where nine students of a Methodist Bible school perished in a dormitory wrested from its foundations and carried like a bobbing cork downstream. Van Cleve is no more, a scabrous scar on a dreary no-mans-land.

No estimate yet has been made of those who may have lost their lives up secluded hollows and on hidden plateaus for in the mountains.

Many of these people from back yonder came to crossroads stores for supplies once a year and were known by sight only to a few people of their immediate district. Weeks must lapse before the trails can be traveled thoroughly and the truth about what happened behind the ridges be known. They will go down in history as the lost legion of the mountains.
Appeal Made By Governor of Kentucky, (Governor Chandler) for $100,000.00 for the flood stricken area- Louisville's quota is $15,000.00.

Both WAVE and WHAS made radio cast fund appeals.... Contribution received up to now Saturday totaled $3,765.31...

400 in body search

Supplies were sent to Morehead and Jackson from many parts of Kentucky, as bridges, washed out, were being repaired. Bodies newly recovered are all from Breathitt-

While debris-laden streams slowly yielded more bodies, W. I. JONES Red Cross Field representative, said approximately 400 persons were searching along the streams and in mud and silt that covered the once picturesque but now devasted Frozen Creek Valley.

Flood Thought "End of World". Woman tells of family's terrified flight to hills while homes were carried by. - by Jane Dixon, Times Special Writer

In a mountain cabin at the very center of destruction, where Strong Forks flows into Frozen Creek, Mrs. Cleve Mac Gregor, a pretty blue-eyed, dark haired wife and mother, lived again for this reporter the dreadful night of the cloudburst......
FLOOD RELIEF IN FULL SWING—ORGANIZATIONS AID HUNDRED OF VOLUNTEERS.

Augmenting hundreds of volunteers, the Red Cross, American Legion, units, W.P.A. and C.C.C. workers and the State Health Department and highway patrolmen Monday bent to the job of rehabilitating Eastern Kentucky flood-ruined areas.

The task included clearing away of debris, still piled high six days after the flash floods; providing food, clothing and shelter for hundreds of homeless.

Reward to Red Cross.

To-date seventy bodies have been found—forty three of them residents of Breathitt, County, twenty five of Rowan and two of Lewis. Twenty eight persons are still missing.

Examples of mountain generosity in flood relief donations in sharp contrasts to gifts of many in far better financial circumstances were set by John Jones and Edward Vandenburg, Beattyville "small business men".

The two winning a $200 reward posted for recovery of the body of baby-year old son of Nathan Pelfrey, Jackson Bank Teller, declined to accept the money, but requested instead that it be given to the Red Cross.

Other bodies found over the week end....
Jackson Ky., July 6th  Ten bodies are taken from stream- property loss may reach $5,000,000.00. Twenty Breathitt bodies have been recovered and identified. The flash floods were caused by a deluge of nearly three inches of rainfall in from three to four hours, Wednesday night.

It appeared virtually certain today that the toll here was confined to the Frozen Creek Valley, particularly, in the ten-mile stretch between Wilhurst and Cockrell’s Bridge on State road 15. The huge wall of water that roared down the valley swept everything in front of it. Destructions in this valley was written in terms of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

One eye kept on the weather saved a family of eight. While others, less observing and less fortunate, slept early Wednesday morning and consequently were trapped in their beds by the Frozen Creek flash flood, Seymour Martin, father of six, kept his weather eye on the natural electrical display and moved his family to safety before the water struck its disastrous blow on the valley.

Martin walked the miles down the mountainsides from his home midway of Strong Fork into Jackson today in search of typhoid serum, and revealed that while his home, crops, and out buildings had been destroyed he still had his family intact.

Page 4, Picture of winding road near Jackson where scores died.
BREATHITT COUNTY

SNOW IN MAY, 1893

"Saturday night, May 19, there was a fall of snow, here between eight and ten o'clock ten to eight inches deep. The limbs were broken from the trees. Vegetation of all kinds was mashed to the earth, sweet potatoes and other tender vegetables were either killed outright or greatly injured. The early corn is much hurt. The snow fell all over the Eastern part of the state. At Nicholasville it was two inches deep. At Louisville it melted as fast as it fell, everywhere, fruit trees, and forest trees were damaged. Such a fall of snow has not been known in the state so late since 1854. Then it came June 8th but not so heavy."

Bibliography

(1) Newspaper) John Jay Dickie, proprietor, Jackson, Ky. 1893. "Jackson Hustler"

(1)

"A student after returning from college spoke thus in telling his grandmother how to obtain the contents of an egg without destroying the shell. 'Take the spheroidal body in your sinister hand, and with a diminutive pointed instrument, held in the dexter hand puncture the apex; in the same manner make an orifice in the base. Place either extremity between your labals and endeavor to draw in your breath, in so doing a vacuum is created and the contents of the egg are discharged into your mouth.' The old lady looked for a moment in amazement and said, 'Law, child, when I was young we used to stick pin holes in 'em and suck 'em.'"

Bibliography

(1) Same source as top article. (newspaper)

Jackson Hustler" John Jay Dickie proprietor, Jackson, Ky. 1893."
In some years the rises attain unusual heights and not only injure works of improvement on the river, but result in enormous losses of property throughout the basin. The most insignificant creeks and branches at times cause widespread damage. Such floods have been common since the beginning of settlement in Kentucky. One of the most disastrous overflows occurred in 1817, when many valuable warehouses were washed away. Collins cites many instances: (Vol. I, p. 56).

"April 9, 1872, greatest flood in the upper Kentucky River since 1817; river rose 15 feet in 6 hours; over 20,000 saw logs, the property of poor people, floated off and lost; above Irvine, Estill County, most of those residing on the river bottoms were driven from their homes by the rising flood; many houses, coal and iron boats, corn boats, washed away and stock drowned." (p. 10).
C.-G., July 7, 1939

Graphic Story of Flood Horror
In Breathitt County
(10 Photographs)

1. Ralph Brady, reporter, and Art Alfieri, photographers for C.-G., reached Rachatt, Ky., on way
to Jackson about 10:30 P.M.,

drive car over debris-
stream through while taking pictures

2. Few miles further on, at
Van Cleere, Ky., on highway
15, we saw what looked
at done to a barn; it were
forced to abandon car because
barn blocked way

3. At Van Cleere a house of
11 rooms, belonging to A. J.
Hatten, was overturned, Mrs.
Hatten, and 3 children made escape
when the house lodged
against a barn.
4. Walking towards Jackson ran into W.E. Maloney of Hazard, who said his grandmother (78 yrs.) had drowned, had a premonition a month ago that same thing was going to happen.

6. Mr. Hatton was unable to take on Highway 15 four miles toward Jackson on account of a giant tree blocking way. We walked on to Cockrell Bridge, which was washed out, crossed frozen creek in boat and lift to Jackson.

7. Next day returned to Cockrell Bridge saw what remained of corn field which had been inundated.

8. Near mouth of Trinity Fork, runs Highway
C. G. July 7, 1939

Medical units fight disease in Breathitt.

Flood devastated areas up creek. Hollows of Breathitt were quarantined following meeting of doctors in Jackson, Ky., seat. The quarantine was put into effect to keep out spectators and protect health of everybody.

The state and local health authorities, W.P.A., and C.C.C. and Red Cross, working hand in hand to bring order out of chaos.

Nurses go from home to home to see what conditions are and to provide typhoid immunization.

Sou. Board of Trade raises $10,000. E.G. O'Brien, chair.

Barney Brigham.

George H. Goodman, paid $25,000 received from Washington to be applied on W.P.A. labor in flood area. "The Cause of Floods in Mountain Counties"

"Flash" floods are caused by a heavy precipitation of rain in a short time—what is known as a "cloud burst." Such rivers like Ohio carry away such easily carriers away such a rainfall but smaller tributaries cannot. The excess water just spills over the banks. The reason for this (from word of Dam M. Bailey, senior engineer of Flood Control Div. U.S. District Engineers' Office) he said is that the sun shining on mountain..."
sides, generates heat
which, carried upwards
by ascending currents,
forces cloud masses to
freezing freight which
causes condensation.

That is why 'flash'
flushes occur more
often in Mt. districts
+ the reason they
are so dangerous.

There is because
most Mt. towns are
situated at the bottom
of a small narrow
valley where a rising
water level carries
the town with it.
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Twenty Breatht controllers have been recovered and identified.

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One Eye Kept an Eye on the Weather Saved a Family of Eight. [By Ralph Brady]

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Martin walked the miles down the mountainsides from his home midway of Strong Fort into Jackson today in search of typhoid serum, and revealed that while his home, crops and out-buildings had been destroyed he still had his family intact.

Page 4—Picture of winding road near Jackson where scores died.
Health Order Speeds Flood Area Burials. 
Morehead Property Loss Set at $1,000,000 
Breckinridge Toll Bp.

Health authorities and Red Cross workers Friday sought to prevent disease outbreak as search parties forced into Eastern Kentucky's slippery silt and matted debris for bodies of forty odd flood victims still missing.

While fifty-five bodies had been listed by the Associated Press as recovered—twenty-five of Rowan County dead, twenty-eight of Breathitt's and two in Truss County—officials feared a sizable number of Breathitt's thirty-four unaccounted for swept miles away into the Kentucky River from rampaging Frozen Creek.

Meanwhile, silent groups of relatives stoically buried their dead, a procedure hastened by health officers' orders designed to head off
Contamination.

Floating Bodies Seen.

Approximately ten bodies of Breathitt County victims were recovered at Beattyville in adjoining Lee County. Police Chief Virgil Smith said other bodies were reported seen floating in the Kentucky river.

Sheriff Walter Beaton estimated seventy-five persons drowned in Frozen Creek Valley. Dr. P.E. Blakerley, assistant Ky. Health Commissioner, said it would be impossible to reckon the full loss of life and property for several days.

U.S. aid held urgent.

Red Cross headquarters in Washington estimated 1,000 families were in need of assistance in the stricken areas. 500 in Breathitt and Rowan, 200 in Lee, 100 in Breathitt and the remainder in other counties.

State and Federal agencies cooperated with the Red Cross in caring for the homeless. Money and commodities were sent in as were physicians, nurses and embalmers.
The powerful was the force of the water that all but three houses in the Reek community, twenty miles north of here, were destroyed. Willurst, near Reek, virtually was swept away. Van Cleve, another Frozen Creek village, met a similar fate. It was in these communities that most of Breathitt County's human toll was taken.

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It seems like everyone has lost some-
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[author illegible]
work up and down the creek and its tributaries.

Immediately victims are identified the bodies are wrapped in simple cotton shrouds made by N.Y. A. workers, placed in pine coffins built by the young men of the C.C.C., transported to family burying yards and interred. Identification of the drowned is becoming increasingly difficult due to the lapse of time, the battering of the waters and the intense heat.

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Of the dead, dead lately reported five were found in the Frozen Creek area, were found in the Frozen Creek area, and the others about 5 miles from Jackson, and the other three at Beatyville fifty miles down the N. Y. River from the scene of the disaster.

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I can't m. page 67
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In Body Search.

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[Cont'd on page 2]
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In a mountain cabin at the very center of destruction, where strong Forbes' flowed into Frozen Creek, Mrs. Clive MacGregor, a pretty blue-eyed, dark-haired wife and mother, lived again for this reporter the dreadful night of the cloudburst....
Flood Relief in Full Swing

Organizations and hundreds of volunteers are augmenting hundreds of volunteers, the Red Cross, American Legion units, W.P.A. and C.C.C. workers and the State Health Department and highway patrolmen Monday bent to the job of rehabilitating Eastern Kentucky flood-ravaged areas.

The task included clearing away of debris, still piled high six days after the flash floods; providing food, clothing and shelter for hundreds of homeless.

Reward to Red Cross

To date, seventy bodies have been found—forty-three of them residents of Breathitt County, twenty-five of Rowan and two of Lewis. Twenty-eight persons are still missing.

Examples of mountain generosity in flood relief donations in sharp contrasts to gifts [cont'd on page 27]
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The two, winning a $200 reward posted for recovery of the body of baby-year-old son of Nathan Pelfrey, Jackson bank teller, declined to accept the money, but requested instead that it be given to the Red Cross.

Other bodies found over the week-end...
Breathitt County Flood (1939)

The Dead Are Buried in Breathitt

On side roads and creek branches, Breathitt Countyans are picking up boards and stones that last week were homes on highways, wreckage of bridges have been replaced by makeshift planks.

Buried in a tiny graveyard - grown grass - yard on top of a high hill near Wilhurst, 11 persons were buried - a mother and son in one; the rest holding single coffins, lie stacked - sun-baked in a semi-circle around a 12-foot concrete platform. Three old & sunken grave sites are their only company. But there is a story about the platform, which 30 years ago, held augh monument to young Hannibal Hurst, Hannibal
was killed at a dance in Hazard.

His father, one of Breathitt
wealthy men, buried him on
the hilltop, and ordered the fine,
towering monument. A railroad
was needed to carry up the
tons of stone, so a railroad
was built. Ten years later
the father moved the monument
and coffin to Lexington, and the
base remains a funeral
platform for flood victims.

Clinic Distributes Milk

Two-room storehouse near
wrecked Blanton Bridge
houses a Red Cross typhoid
Clinic, and, once a day
is the scene of a milk
distribution. They get
clothes from similar
Centers, and furniture are delivered
to convenient points, cleaning
Salvaging goes on until stopped by setting sun.

Salvaging automobiles half-buried under mud and debris as only one item of work to be done.
The Flash Flood Damage and Recovery
(Pearl Watts)

Hampton was one of the worst damaged communities in the whole flood area. Ten people lost their lives, and at least ten homes and barns washed away. Nearly every garden in the whole district was destroyed. About the only crop left was a little corn in the hillsides. Of course, it was greatly damaged. It looked yellow and spiny, and I noticed that all of the loose rich soil had been washed away, down to gravels or clay. Landslides were numerous. You could stand in one place and count thirty-two without moving. In visiting the homes, I also noticed an absence of fried-chicken. The mothers always apologized with, "The flood took all my chickens."

So far, only two small dwelling houses and one store have been rebuilt. A few barns that were not completely destroyed have been put back and a few people have rebuilt their chicken-houses. Nearly every farmer has sown grass, clover, or lespedeza to rebuild the soil and to prevent erosion, but it will be a long time, if ever, before the soil will be back to normal.

Johnson Fork Since The Flood
(Ina Noble)

Not many of the people on Johnson Fork of Frozen have done very much to improve their farms since the "flash" flood in July. Not any of the homes were destroyed although several of their barns, all of their fences, and other buildings were washed away. A large part of their crops and almost all of their gardens were destroyed.

Several new fences have been made. The road has been cleared until it is almost as good as it was before the flood. Some of the rocks and drift have been removed from the school playground.

Everyone has been busy with their crops and not much work has been done to repair the damage by the flood.

STRONG FORK SCHOOL
(Bernice Turner, Teacher)

I visited many of the homes in taking the school census about two weeks after the flash flood on Frozen Creek. The people in these homes told heart-rending stories of the terrible tragedy which had befallen them. Grief-stricken, they told of friends and loved ones who had lost their lives or all they possessed.

Huge rocks, landslides, trees and drift took the place of most of their crops and many of the homes were completely washed away. The roads were either impassable or completely gone. The people were stunned after two weeks of shock and despair at conditions surrounding them. They did not know what to do or where to turn for the help which they needed badly. They knew that it was up to them to rebuild what had been destroyed and with the aid of the Red Cross and the American Legion they started reconstructing.

Now after four months, many of the homes have been rebuilt, roads and fences replaced, and the people are beginning to realize the value of soil conservation and reforestation. Some have received help through the Farm Security Program which will enable them to get back on their feet again.

But, it takes time to recover from a shock such as this. Even yet, the people have a horrible fear of heavy rains and thunderstorms. If a storm comes up during the day, the children get panic-stricken and want to go home to their parents. If the storm comes at night, each family sits wide-eyed and watchful until the storm is over. In time they will forget most of this, but it will take lots of planning and hard work on their part. They have already made much progress and have shown much interest in better living conditions.
THE FLASH FLOOD DAMAGE AND RECOVERY
(Pearl Watts)

Hampton was one of the worst damaged communities in the whole flood area. Ten people lost their lives, and at least ten homes and barns washed away. Nearly every garden in the whole district was destroyed. About the only crop left was a little corn on the hillsides. Of course, it was greatly damaged. It looked yellow and spinley, and I noticed that all of the loose rich soil had been washed away, down to gravels or clay. Landslides were numerous. You could stand in one place and count thirty-two without moving. In visiting the homes, I also noticed an absence of fried-chicken. The mothers always apologized with, "The flood took all my chickens."

So far, only two small dwelling houses and one store have been rebuilt. A few barns that were not completely destroyed have been put back and a few people have rebuilt their chicken-houses. Nearly every farmer has sown grass, clover, or lespedeza to rebuild the soil and to prevent erosion, but it will be a long time, if ever, before the soil will be back to normal.

JOHNSON FORK SINCE THE FLOOD
(Ida Noble)

Not many of the people on Johnson Fork of Frozen have done very much to improve their farms since the "flash" flood in July. Not any of the homes were destroyed although several of their barns, all of their fences, and other buildings were washed away. A large part of their crops and almost all of their gardens were destroyed.

Several new fences have been made. The road has been cleared until it is almost as good as it was before the flood. Some of the rocks and drift have been removed from the school playground.

Everyone has been busy with their crops and not much work has been done to repair the damage by the flood.
I visited many of the homes in taking the school census about two weeks after the flash flood on Frozen Creek. The people in these homes told heart-rending stories of the terrible tragedy which had befallen them. Grief-stricken, they told of friends and loved ones who had lost their lives or all they possessed.

Huge rocks, landslides, trees and drift took the place of most of their crops and many of the homes were completely washed away. The roads were either impassable or completely gone. The people were stunned after two weeks of shock and despair at conditions surrounding them. They did not know what to do or where to turn for the help which they needed badly. They knew that it was up to them to rebuild what had been destroyed and with the aid of the Red Cross and the American Legion they started reconstructing.

Now after four months, many of the homes have been rebuilt, roads and fences replaced, and the people are beginning to realize the value of soil conservation and reforestation. Some have received help through the Farm Security Program which will enable them to get back on their feet again.

But, it takes time to recover from a shock such as this. Even yet, the people have a horrible fear of heavy rains and thunderstorms. If a storm comes up during the day, the children get panic-stricken and want to go home to their parents. If the storm comes at night, each family sits wide-eyed and watchful until the storm is over. In time they will forget most of this, but it will take lots of planning and hard work on their part. They have already made much progress and have shown much interest in better living conditions.