

① Sou. Service July 6, 1939  
Sou. Ans. Distress Call from Hills  
Doctors, Nurses, Food, Police  
Sent.

Acting Mayor Broadbush  
radio cast over W H A S  
offer to stricken Breathitt  
Co., area of all help Sou.  
can give, as did Mayor E.  
Reed Wilson for Lexington,

15 doctors, 5 nurses  
equipped with medicines &  
food supplies, the doctors  
young internes from City  
Hospital; nurses, city employees

" 7 or 8 heavy duty trucks  
from Works Dept., loaded with  
food ready to start.

After conferring with Credo  
Harris, director of W H A S,  
Mr. Broadbush radio cast  
on channel 10. Funds for

(2)

communities,

George H. Goodman, State  
W.P.A. Director, ordered  
trucks + workers dispatched  
from Paintsville to Frozen  
Creek. Appeal made to  
boat owners in Herrington  
Lake Area to send boats  
by truck. Mr. Goodman  
assured Mayor's com. that  
it could have any  
number of relief workers.

Six Louisville embalmers  
left with equipment to  
assist in carrying for  
dead in Breathitt Co.,  
Miss Elsie Mantle, exec. sec.  
Red Cross. rec'd word from Wash.  
that 12 Red cross workers,  
including Morris R. Reddy,  
asst. dir. of disaster relief  
were in the field.

①

C-G. July 6, 1939

"Relief sent to Stricken"  
Territory"

Relief agencies of State &  
Nation mobilized for succor of  
two Eastern Ky. communities  
hit by one of worst floods  
in recent history of State.

The Ky. River country  
centering around Jackson,  
County Seat of Breathitt,  
& 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. House  
were washed away in the  
wall of water that swept  
down the mts., creeks &  
hollows. All roads &  
bridges in large areas of

②  
Breathitt, Rowan + Carter  
were destroyed. Trains were  
being detoured.

Areas hardest hit in  
Breathitt were Jackson  
+ Frozen Creek.

Dr. P. E. Blackerby, Asst.  
Health Com., 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.



① C-G, July 7, 1939

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

- 1 - Ralph Brady, reporter, + I, Art  
abbier, photographer for C-G,  
reached Duckett, Ky. on way  
to Jackson about 10.30 P. M.  
Drove car over debris -  
strewn bridge while I took  
pictures
2. Few miles, further on, at  
Van Clere, Ky. on Highway  
15, we saw what flood  
at done to a barn + were  
forced to abandon car because  
barn blocked way
3. at Van Clere a house of  
11 rooms, belonging to A. L.  
Hutton, was overturned, Mrs  
H. + 3 children made escape  
when the house lodged  
against a barn

① C-G, July 6, 1939

"Breathitt Flood"

Breathitt + Rowan Counties  
Wed. night counted early  
morning flood toll at 92  
dead + missing. Breathitt  
authorities fear 40 more dead  
there + fear final toll may  
be 100.

Flood hit Breathitt  
around 3 o'clock in  
morning. Walls of water  
as high as 20 ft. rolled  
down the valleys without  
warning, the result of an  
Eastern Ky. cloudburst  
that released up to 2.89  
inches of rain in 3 or 4 hrs.

Breathitt County Sheriff  
Walter Heaton said 69 were  
missing at Beck, 10 mi. west  
of Jackson, where two forks  
of Frozen Creek merge.  
Sheriff Heaton said

(2)

the property damage  
in Breathitt County in  
his county \$1,000,000.

50 homes washed away  
in Frozen Creek alone.

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

A C-G. 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



(3)

boat at several points  
before arriving at Jackson  
at midnight.

W. H. Pelfrey, Breathitt  
store-keeper at Van Clere,  
on Van Clere Creek, a few  
miles west of Jackson, told  
of watching a 20 ft. wall of  
water surge down valley &  
sweep away his store, a  
garage & 6 automobiles.  
His house was caught  
& went along with the  
store. The house broke  
when it struck an  
obstruction & his son,  
holding 1 yr. old babe in  
his arms, took to the  
water. The child was  
knocked from his  
father's arms & carried



(4)

down stream. The father & mother worked their way to safety.

Rev. Selia McConnell, head of Mt. Bible Institute, related that water carried away college bldgs., including a dormitory housing 25 boys & girls. Three teachers clung to bldg. for distance of four miles were carried out of creek for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mi. down Ky. River before rescued.

Rainfall over area seemingly averaged 2.5 inches

Such rainfall in the narrow Mt. valleys, results in the so-called "flash" floods which send

(5)

the small streams up ten 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. Mr. Sewell, Breathitt Co. Health officer reports —  
It will be days to get to heads of creek & 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 17 lives in North Fork Valley alone. The west

(6)

central side of area stricken  
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.

Box 1 File 10

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-officals 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 physicans, 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<sup>t</sup>wo, caught in another current, went downstream.

PAGE I, 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 ~~an~~ 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 wrestled 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 ~~x~~ 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 ~~x~~ 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.

Lou Times July 8-1939 vo.CXI.- no.59.

Box 1

File 10

Page 1 col 1. 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 radiocast fund appeals..... Contribution received up to now Saturday totaled \$3,763.31....1

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 devastated 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-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 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.....



C. J. FRIDAY

Box 1 - F11210

July 7, 1939- vol. CLXX N.S. No. 25,755 Page 1-col.8 by Ralph Brady

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.

THE COURIER JOURNAL JULY 9TH, 1939 PAGE 1 Section 3.

One eye kept on the weather saved a family of eight. by Ralph Brady

Jackson, Ky. July 8th, 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 disasterous blow ~~at~~ 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.'"

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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).

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In Breathitt County  
(10 Photographs)

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at done to a barn + were  
forced to abandon car because  
barn blocked way
3. at Van Clare a house of  
11 rooms, belonging to A. L.  
Hutton, was overthrown, Mrs  
Hutton + 3 children made escape  
when the house lodged  
against a barn



(2)

4. Walking towards Jackson ran into W.C. Maloney, of Hazard, who said his grandmother (78 yrs.) who drowned, had a premonition a month ago that something was going to happen.
6. Mr. Hatton was only able to take on Highway 15, four miles toward Jackson on account of a giant tree blocking way. We walked on to Cockerell Bridge, which was washed out, crossed frozen creek in boat & left to Jackson.
7. Next day returned to Cockerell Bridge & saw what remained of a corn field which had been inundated.
8. Near mouth of Stron Fork, runs Highway

① C - g. July 7, 1939 Box 1 File 10  
medical units fight disease in Breathitt

Flood devastated areas up creeks +  
hollows of Breathitt were  
quarantined following meeting  
of doctors in Jackson, Co, seat.

The quarantine was put into  
effect to keep out spectators +  
protect health of everybody.

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

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

Sou. Board of Trade raises  
\$10,000. E. g. O'Brien, Chr.,  
"Ky. Flood Relief" other  
members are Charles R. Battoff,  
William A. Stoll, Edward  
A. Hilliard, A. H. Bowman +

(2)

Barry Bingham.

George H. Goodman, said  
\$25,000 received from Washington  
to be applied on W. P. A.  
labor in flood area.

(The Cause of 7 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,  
big river like Ohio can  
easily carry away such  
a rainfall but smaller  
tributaries can't, & 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 Engineer's Office, Lou.)  
he said, is that the  
sun, shining on mountain

(3)

sides, generates heat which, carried upwards by ascending currents, forces cloud masses to a freezing height which causes condensation.

"That is why 'flash' floods 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.



C. J. Friday - - 1 - Box 1 File 14  
July 7, 1939 - vol. CLXX N.S. No. 25, 755  
Page 1 - col. 8 by Ralph Brady.

Jackson Ky., July 6 - Ten bodies are taken  
From Stream - Property loss may  
Reach \$5,000,000.

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Cowier Journal - 1 - Box 1 File 14  
July 9, 1939. [Sec. 3. page 7] vol.  
Sunday.

One Eye Kept On the Weather Saved  
A Family of Eight. [By Ralph Brady]  
Jackson, Ky., July 8 - while others, less  
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Page 4 - Picture of winding road near  
Jackson where scores died.

COHIST

Am. Times - July 7, 1939 - 1 -  
vol. CXL - no. 58,  
page 1 - col. 8.

Box 1  
File 14

Health Order Speeds Flood Area Burials.  
Morehead Property Loss Set at \$1,000,000  
Breathitt Toll up.

Health authorities and Red Cross workers Friday sought to prevent disease outbreak as searching parties poked into Eastern Kentucky's sloppy 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 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

Cont'd on page 27

COHIST



contamination.

Box 1 File 14

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Sheriff Walter Heaton 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.

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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.

[Cont'd on page 3]

COHIST



So powerful was the force of the water that all but three houses in the Reek community, twenty miles north of here, were destroyed. Wilburst, 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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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 - Awakens Flood - Exhausted  
 [cont'd. on page 4]

Jackson.

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COHIST

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COHIST



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Times - July 8 - 1939  
vol. CXI. - no 59.

Box 1  
File 14

Page 1 - col. 1 - appeal made by the Governor of Kentucky, (Gov. Chandler) for \$100,000 for the flood stricken area - Louisville's quota is 15,000. Both W A V E and W H A S make radiocast funds appeals. . . . Contributions received up to noon Saturday totaled \$3,763.31. . . .

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[cont'd on page 2]

COHIST

Flood Thought "End of World":  
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Flight to Hill while Homes were  
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On a mountain cabin at the very center  
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into Frozen Creek, Mrs. Cleve MacIsregor,  
a pretty blue-eyed, dark-haired wife  
and mother, lived again for this reporter  
the dreadful night of the cloudburst. . . .



Los Angeles Times.  
July 10, 1939  
vol. CXI. - 710.60.

-7-

COHIST, Box 1 File 14

page 1 - col. 4 - ] Flood Relief in Full Swing

## Organizations aid Hundreds of Volunteers

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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 twenty 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 2]



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 . . . .

Clippings  
551.57  
Km

Box 1 File 10

(1)

C-2. July 15, 1939

# Breathitt County Flood (1939)

"The Dead are Buried in Breathitt"  
On side roads + creek branches, Breathitt  
Courtians are picking up boards +  
stones that last week were homes.  
On highways, wreckage of bridges  
have been replaced by makeshift  
planks.

Buried in a tiny, cramped -  
grown grave-yard on top of a  
high hill near Wulhurst, 11  
persons were buried. a mother +  
son in one; the rest holding  
single coffins, lie stark +  
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  
storey about the platform,  
which 30 years ago, held a  
high monument to young  
Hannibal Hurst. Hannibal



(2)

was killed at a dance in Hazard.  
 His father, one of Breathitts  
 wealthy men, buried him on  
 the hill top, & 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  
 & coffin to Lexington, & only  
 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 & bedding &  
 furniture are delivered  
 to convenient points cleaning

(3)

salvaging goes on until  
stopped by setting sun.

Salvaging automobiles  
half-buried under mud &  
debris is only one item of  
work to be done.

that is all the work  
of day 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 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*

(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.

Box 1 file 10

THE FLASH FLOOD DAMAGE AND RECOVERY  
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JOHNSON FORK SINCE THE FLOOD  
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