Morehead Swept By ‘Flash’ Flood As Town Sleeps

100 Houses Reported Washed From Foundations By Sudden Deluge After Torrential Cloudburst; Toll May Go Even Higher After Waters Subside

MOREHEAD, July 3—Forty-six persons today were reported drowned in floods that followed quickly a night cloudburst and sweep creeks and rivers out of their banks in the mountains of eastern Kentucky. Thirty-eight of the dead were listed here by Postmaster W. E. Crumbaker.

Mr. Crumbaker and Joe Humes, telephone company manager here, said 11 bodies had been recovered.

Mr. Crumbaker and Mr. Humes were unable to send full details of the disaster as an emergency telephone line was commandeered to order medical supplies and ask aid for the stricken community.

The state board of health at Louisville said it had been informed at least 80 persons were drowned. Harry Warren C. Logan wired Arthur G. Rice, WPA director in Washington, that 150 persons had been killed or injured in the floods, and that, among other WPA help, 150 Federal engineers were engaged in rescue work.

Mr. Northcutt said railroad and highway bridges, most of them were washed out and that the railroad tracks had been swept away on both sides of the town.

Two state railroad towns, Farmers and Clearfield, also were under water, as the waters of the meandering Trappet creek came out of the banks shortly after midnight.

Mr. Crumbaker estimated that the flood, which struck as residents of this town of 300 slept, but washed at least 100 houses from their foundations.

Red Cross Aid Sent

WASHINGTON, July 3—American Red Cross headquarters today sent a special train to Morehead, Ky., including Morton C. Wilson, “flash” floods of small creeks breached several communities last night, Mrs. Hazel P. Thompson of Cincinnati, who recommended that the town be made a Red Cross disaster center.

Mrs. H. L. Wells, chairman of the Red Cross, Red Cross headquarters here, sent the train to Morehead. She also ordered 100 blankets and 100 cooking utensils for the town.

“Chains were on the branches of the streets, and we were told that the water was 12 feet high in the center of the town,” she said.

Mrs. Thompson said the town was deserted and that the water was up to the second floor.

“Two children were rescued from the roof of a house,” she said.

The Red Cross headquarters here will send additional blankets and cooking utensils to the town.

Newspaper Employee, In Morehead All Night, Here To Tell About Flood

Every eye witness information indicates that a “flash” flood hit the Morehead area today, and caused a great deal of damage and destruction caused by a “flash” flood. The Morehead area was swept by waters that were up to the second floor of the town. The waters were 12 feet high in the center of the town, and swept through the town.”

Mr. and Mrs. Dallin were awoken last night at about 1 a.m. and were told to leave their home. They were told that the water was up to the second floor.

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FLOOD

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through the streets. The town is built with streets and residential sections in tiers on a hillside and the higher tiered sections escaped.

Mr. Daulton said that rain started about 11 p.m. and continued unusually hard until about 1 a.m., when there was a slight letup with more rain, but not so hard, from 1:15 a.m. to about 3 a.m. He said that one resident reported the creek in the town was up at least 10 feet in 15 minutes.

Mr. and Mrs. Dalton were en route to their home in Ashland from a vacation visit in the south. They drove through a downpour for several miles west of Morehead and on reaching the town and finding streets with water already inches deep decided not to attempt to go farther at night. This morning they learned of road and bridge damage east of town, making it impossible to escape via that route.

NEW STATE BUILDING AUTHORITY RULED OUT

Court Decides Existence Is Unconstitutional

HOTEL AT MOREHEAD IS RAISED BY FLAMES

Holiday Fire Loss Estimated At $80,000

Special To The Times

MOREHEAD, July 5—Fire which started from an undetermined source razed the City hotel building in Morehead Tuesday with an estimated loss of $80,000.

Morehead's volunteer fire department was called into action between 2 and 3 a.m. but the flames had gathered such headway before the alarm was turned in that it was possible only to prevent the flames from spreading to other structures on the town's main street.

Lost in the blaze were stocks and furnishings of the following establishments, all located in the three story hotel: Morehead Real Estate Co. office, managed by Alf Caskey, who also owns the building; S. and W. liquor dispensary; Orville Martin barber shop; the V. D. Flood poolroom; the pack horse library headquarters; and four school busses, also the property of Mr. Caskey, were in a garage at the rear of the building where the flames evidently originated.