Rehabilitation Begins In Death-Struck Morehead

Survivors Still Horrified By Memories Of Harrowing Night Of Hundreds Trapped During Sleep

By L. W. BURNS
Times Staff Writer

MOREHEAD, July 6—Struck by the worst catastrophe in its history the community of 2,500 inhabitants today turned its shoulder to the wheel to rehabilitate after a "flash" flood left 25 dead, 13 missing and thousands of dollars in property damage in its wake early Wednesday. Loss of life elsewhere in the flood area is expected to bring the total to more than 100.

An incessant rain began falling in the watershed of Tripplet creek about 11 p.m. Tuesday and by 1 a.m. Wednesday a cloudcluthed turned the insignificant creek into a death-dealing torrent which cut its path of destruction about 25 miles long and a half mile wide throughout the valley.

Many of the dead were awakened from sleep by water entering their homes and were washed to sudden deaths in the millrace as they attempted to reach safety. So rapid was the rise that many citizens reported that the water came up 6 feet in 10 minutes.

Houses, barns and outbuildings were swept away, livestock were washed 100 to 200 yards downstream, trees were uprooted and everything of which there is no little level land between the tall mountain peaks.

They have been through floods before, many of them, but old timers shook their heads over the big loss of life.

Morehead, probably the worst hit, was but one of numerous communities to feel the brunt of the fury of the storm and its aftermath.

Whitley County Hit

Seventy-five miles almost due south, Bardstown, commonly called "Bloody Breathitt", in feeling years—had seven known dead, Sheriff Walter Deaton who went to the village of Keck, 10 miles west of Bardstown, yesterday, said 29 persons were missing.

At Keck the waters of Frosen creek merged. The sheriff said the tiny streams poured such a volume of water onto the sleeping town that the death toll may include all of the missing. Search for the missing was continued. The sheriff estimated the damage, and property damage in Breathitt county at $1,000,000.

Protection against typhoid, fostered by health authorities to lie in polluted water at the time of floods, was being given by the state board of health which also chlorinated water for drinking purposes.

Injuries, the Red Cross reported, were not serious along the more than 100 homes in Morehead.

Victims' Mosas Echo

Survivors Wednesday in Morehead walked the streets, still hearing the cries, screams and moans of the victims that terrorized the night. Families living on Main street and north were terrified by the screams in the night. All was dark and the water kept rising and rising and above the roar could be heard a scream after scream. More than 2,000 persons were helpless to aid those who were caught in the swift current and could only pace the street, following the

BATES TO ASK HELP

WASHINGTON, July 6—Congress will be asked to make a direct appropriation for the aid of victims of Kentucky's mountain flood. Representative Bates (D) of Kentucky, whose district was hit heaviest by the waters, said today he will draft a bill for congressional aid as soon as the extent of the loss is determined. The American Red Cross wired Red Cross chapters at Cincinnati and points in the immediate flood area, asking them to make a newspaper appeal for cash funds to be used in relief.

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cries downstream, hoping that in some manner they could lend aid. What few boats that were available could not alone be used against the torrent. The current was too swift to man a boat as the water approached its crest.

The electric lines snapped and the town went into darkness at 1:36 a.m. and from then until daylight the survivors walked, helped each other across floodwaters. The streets heard cries for help. Panic reigned as no one could determine how high the water would rise or when the crest would reach them.

"The night was a living hell," as one survivor pictured it.

After the water receded search...

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were stopped at 1:23 a.m. the night residents estimated the tragedy struck. Higher and higher the muddy waters swelled, reaching a crest and subsiding around 3 a.m. and then, almost as quickly as it started its death rush, the waters began to subside.
When we arrived at Morehead at 3 p.m. Wednesday, a hot sun had dried much of the mud and silt on Main Street and dust was swirling in the wake of automobiles. People milled all over the streets, their faces drawn and tired, lined with the tragedy and shock of the catastrophe.
Community Dared
Everybody seemed dazed and still shocked by the incredulity of the tragedy that had struck so suddenly. Crowds formed around two funeral homes where bodies of the victims were taken as soon as they were found.
Seated on the back steps of one of the funeral homes was a red-headed, freckled-faced, mush-mouthed youngster. He was a handsome little fellow, in spite of his mud-splattered face and clothes. Mud oozed from his bare toes. We had come around the rear of the funeral home and were standing near the youngster.
"When will they let you go inside," he asked us. And in reply to our answer he said: "My mom's in there." His lips quivered and tears ran down his cheeks.
We just had gotten to the other funeral home when a man dragged out the door. He started around the crowd of people, his eyes dazed.
Family Drowned
Suddenly he pushed his straw hat back off his forehead, covered his eyes with his hands and hurried to convulsive sobs. His wife and three children were drowned, along with other relatives.
These were the real tragedies of the night of terror. Some bodies were recovered, others still were missing. Those who knew, were simply wept for those who were lost.
So suddenly had the catastrophe struck and so violent was the damage and loss of life, that the entire populace was stunned. Everything was in chaos, while the more fortunate residents were able to regain a semblance of order and administer aid to shocked families.
Headquarters was set up at the city hall and residents were bringing in clothing of every description. Those families that had been struck by the full fury of the swirling waters had lost everything. Little could be salvaged from the wreckage.
Police Give Aid
State highway patrol cars moved along the streets asking aid to those who needed food, clothing, or any kind of aid to report to headquarters.
Little was being done to clean up obstructed streets and homes. The first concern was for those lost and caring for those saved. There was no setup in work of every description. Residents had not slept since they were routed from their beds by the tragedy.
We talked to many of the homespeople, those whose homes and families had been washed away and those who had gone into the water to rescue victims.
One man told us: "The horror and terror of those black hours

LUNCHEON FOR FI
Cold Plate Lunch
Virginia Baked Ham
Potato salad
Cole slaw
Apple Sauce
Bread and Butter
Coffee Tea or Milk
GALLA
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