

HUNDREDS OF CALIFORNIANS PERISH WHEN ST. FRANCIS DAM GOES OUT

(Continued from page 1.)

squad, only a small percentage of those that died in the tremendous gouge of the loosened flood.

Flood Tears Thru Ranch

From this point and that came reports of other bodies being sighted or recovered.

The flood tore thru the ranch of the film actor, Harry Carey, and the fate of 30 Indians who had been living on the property at least until a short time ago was undetermined. Sixteen farmers living near the actor's mountain cabin post, also were unaccounted for.

Wreckage of every kind and description was strewn for miles and miles along the narrow canyon which winds its picturesque way into the rolling hills northward from Saugus.

So great was the volume of water that poured thru the side breach in the dam that, despite the 36,000-acre feet of supply in the big reservoir, the flood spent itself in a few hours.

Edison Plant Mass of Ruins

The \$100,000 southern California Edison plant, half a mile below the Carey ranch, was reported to be nothing but a mass of smashed cement work.

Orchards, garden area, and all manner of ranch equipment, with fowl and livestock, were swept away by the waters.

Estimates placed the total number of dwellers in the canyon area at a little more than 500.

Survivors there were, but they came in straggling groups. And their total had not caused rescue officials to cut their estimate of possible loss of life as the forenoon hours passed.

Frantic Parents Search Wreckage

A bit of all the human tragedies that attend all disasters was present when the Associated Press staff correspondents penetrated the stricken area before dawn had mounted over the giant peak of the mountains.

Here a woman, hysterically wringing her hands, slushed up and down searching for her missing child; there a man, a pitiful figure clothed only in a bathrobe, sobbingly ran aimlessly from point to point seeking the bodies of his wife and baby.

When the flash of the short circuited high line threw its ghastly warning light to the southward, one man, so far as is known, sensed the coming disaster. He was Dr. C. C. Ashley, proprietor of a sanitarium at Saugus. He ordered all his assistants to stand by and prepare to render aid.

L. A. Water Supply Safe

Los Angeles water supply is in no immediate danger of being seriously affected, according to the bureau of water and power. There is sufficient water in the San Fernando reservoir to last more than 40 days, they stated.

The break in the San Francisco dam today caused a loss of 36,000 acre feet of water.

Officials of the Southern California Gas company here today reported that the water had broken three 12-inch gas mains and left the upper San Fernando valley without gas supply.

Arrangements are being made to supply the area with gas from the Los Angeles compressor station. The officials declared that the valley would have pressure in the mains before night.

(Associated Press Leased Wire)

Early Loss Estimate

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 13.—Estimates of the loss of life in the St. Francis dam disaster, compiled by the Los Angeles Times early this morning, ran from 200 to 500 persons. Chaotic conditions prevailed in the district and exact information of the dam break and its consequences was almost impossible to obtain.

The Times' estimate of dead was based on the number of persons living in the canyon immediately below the dam, including ranchers, power company workers and power sub-station employees, and early reports which accounted for only five persons rescued.

Carey Ranch in Path

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 13.—The St. Francis dam of the city of Los Angeles water system, located in San Francisco Canyon, approximately 45 miles north of here, collapsed shortly after midnight, pouring a wall of water into the lowlands and according to early reports causing some loss of life.

The surrounding country, dotted here and there with ranches and dwellings, is rough and hilly with numerous canyons cutting the country. The San Francisco Canyon where the St. Francis reservoir and dam is located, is narrow but spreads out into a good sized valley farther down.

Saugus, Newhall, El Rio and several other little mountain valley towns are located south of the break. Harry Carey's ranch property of the famous movie cowboy was in the path of the waters.

The St. Francis dam is the property of Los Angeles and is part of the city's widespread water system. It will hold 32,000 acre feet of water, or approximately 1,344,000,000 gallons, and was believed to be full.

Power Lines Swept Away

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., Mar. 13.—The power supervisor of the Southern California Edison company office here early this morning stated that power lines of the company leading into Santa Barbara had been swept away by the flood of water released by the breaking of the St. Francis reservoir dam in the San Francisco Canyon.

Family of Six Killed

NEW HALL, Calif., Mar. 13.—Advices to the sheriff's office here early today said that one family of six was reported to have perished in the flood with the breaking of the St. Francis dam and that fears were felt for 25 other families living in the direct path of the waters.

No Quake Is Recorded

WASHINGTON, Mar. 13.—Exhaustive research today failed to disclose any trace of an earthquake in California on the seismograph at Georgetown University. Director Tondorf declared "There is not the slightest sign of a disturbance" in the region of St. Francis dam.

National Guard Is Out

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 13.—The

Son Rescues Father From the Swirling Waters of Flood

(Associated Press Leased Wire)

NEWHALL, Calif., Mar. 13.—C. H. Hudick, 39, related in the emergency hospital here today, how he was rescued by one of his sons from the swirling waters of the flood just as he had given up all hope of being saved.

"Our ranch house," he said, "was located a mile and a half below the dam. When the water hit it, the house crumpled as though it were built of cards. I could not see a thing in the darkness but found myself clinging to what turned out to be the roof of our home."

"Down down with the current

160th regiment California national guard, stationed here, early today was ordered to stand ready to go into the flooded area, by its commanding officer, Colonel H. Harvey.

Loss of Life Heavy

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 13.—At 10 o'clock this morning a recapitulation of loss of life in the St. Francis dam break disaster based on word flashed here by official rescue chiefs, indicated that at least 110 persons died in the great flood which crashed through the broken dam just after midnight today. Eugene Biscailuz, under sheriff of Los Angeles county and in charge of rescue work in the St. Francis dam area, wired his office here at 9:45 a. m., that 100 bodies had been recovered at the point where the flood waters of the breaking St. Francis dam had entered the Santa Paula and Santa Clara rivers.

Previously ten bodies had been recovered and placed in an improvised morgue at Saugus, southeast of the center of the stricken area. How many more dead lay beneath the deep layer of yellow sand which covered San Francisco Canyon could not be told, but officials believed that the death list might reach as high as 400.

(Associated Press Leased Wire)

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 13.—Six more bodies were recovered on the north bank of the Santa Clara river at Castaic at noon today by deputy sheriffs from Los Angeles, they reported to headquarters here.

Find Six More Bodies
MOORE PARK, Calif., Mar. 13.—Six bodies of those that perished in the St. Francis dam break flood had been brought to this inland town today. Five more were enroute from a ranch between here and Fillmore, where they had been washed up. Most of the bodies had been torn and gashed by the raging torrent. They were brought in from the Bardsdale district, about five miles from here.

Partial or complete identification of eight of them was made as follows:

Gordon Cummings, wife and

Two Kelly children.

Earl Crowder.

George Hassolo.

Ranch hand by the name of

"Tony," employed on the Hassolo ranch.

Eight unidentified.

Four for Two Towns

OXNARD, Calif., Mar. 13.—

Grave fears were expressed by

officials of Oxnard for two towns,

Piru and Fillmore, which were

directly in the path of the flood

pouring out of San Francisco

Canyon today and with which it

has been impossible to establish

communication.

Piru particularly was declared

to have been in an extremely dan-

gerous position. It is situated on

lowlands squarely opposite the

path down which the rushing wall

of water dashed this morning, 75

feet high and half a mile wide.

Attempts to reach either Piru

or Fillmore were unsuccessful, but

were being renewed in the hope of

getting through the mud, sand and

water by which they are isolated.

Police officers spotted three

bodies floating down the river past

Satcity, eight miles above here.

Oxnard was warned at 2 o'clock

this morning that the water was

coming, and 1500 automobiles

were employed to move the inhabi-

itants bodily to high ground. How-

ever, the danger passed two hours

later without Oxnard being strick-

en.

BUCK ON WAY HOME.

PORTLAND, Ore., Mar. 13.—

"Buck" Lionelton, who with Tom

Gardane, police chief of Pendleton,

captured William Edward Hick-

man, stopped here today enroute

home. He expects to reach Pend-

leton Thursday.

He will resume his patrol of eastern

Oregon highways for the state

traffic department, he said.

VICE TRIAL STARTS

PORTLAND, Ore., Mar. 13.—

With defense attorneys

making constant references

to an alleged jury-tampering

case in the east, and an im-

mation that a blonde woman

who was reported interview-

ing prospective jurors in

Portland last Friday may

have been a representative of

the parent-teachers associa-

tions, the trial of Clarence

Brasell, accused of immoral

practice among small boys,

began today before a jury in

circuit court.

Eight tentative jurors had

been selected at noon.

(Associated Press Leased Wire)

we went. I held on desperately. I kept saying to myself every second was my last. I knew that I could not last long. I am old and my strength was going fast, but I hung on.

"Then I must have floated for miles, somebody grabbed my arm in the darkness."

"Is it you Dad?" I knew it was one of my sons. He got me over to the plank he was on. I don't remember much after that. I wonder if they saved the other two boys."

They did not tell the old man that the bodies of the two sons for whom he inquired lay in a temporary morgue nearby.

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The Homemakers' Institute opens tomorrow, and from the interest being shown it is expected that there will be a large attendance. Wednesday is to be club day, and prominent club workers will be speakers on the program. Thursday is to be given over largely to topics regarding child life. Friday is to be home beautification day, with a special feature of stunts and recreation, while on Saturday is to be grange day.

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houses, the super-structures of both having been carried away in the midnight horror of water.

The rails of the Southern Pacific railway's branch running up the valley added their bit to the picture of destruction.

For a distance of half a mile the rails looked like two badly twisted strings of spaghetti, their sleepers hanging from them at all angles.

HOMEMAKERS TO START FOUR-DAY INSTITUTE WED.

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