

Midwest Flood Waters Show Signs of Easing

By The Associated Press
Rampaging midwest flood waters—the worst in 13 years—showed hopeful signs Thursday of losing their force.

More than 15,000 persons have been driven from their homes along the Mississippi and Ohio rivers and their tributaries, but tension eased at the most crucial spots.

The outlook hinged on two things—the weather for the next few days and the strength of the levees holding back the swollen rivers.

The blood Wash river began rising slowly again at Vincennes, Ind., but that city's 20,000 residents wrote off the flood threat as virtually ended.

Water Starts Fall
The weather bureau said the crisis passed Wednesday when the waters licked to within five inches of the top of the city's 29-foot flood wall and then began falling.

The water poured back to 27.10 feet after sinking to 26.82 Wednesday night, but forecasters said only "minor fluctuations" were expected for the next three or four days.

At Cairo, Ill., the second major danger spot the Mississippi river was expected to crest Thursday night at 55.5 feet. Army engineers said that if the waters stay below 57 feet the Birds Point-New Madrid spillway in southeast Missouri, probably will not be flooded.

About 11,400 of the floodway's 12,000 residents have fled from their homes in expectation that their levees would be punctured.

The Wash river poured over the New York Central railroad tracks in southern Illinois. A train from Chicago was halted at Lawrenceville and passengers were taken by taxi to Mt. Carmel to continue their southward trip to Harrisburg, Ill.

Seepage Develops
Some seepage developed on the floodway. A group of engineers at Wyatt, Mo., held an emergency meeting and then rushed two truckloads of workers to sandbag the weakened dikes.

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Young Woman Found Alive In Her Coffin

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Doctors are studying the strange case of a young woman discovered to be alive in her coffin just as her mourning family was about to bury her.

Medical authorities said the woman, Anita Souffrant, 26, from the rural district of Saint Michel, had lost consciousness after a six-month illness during which she was dosed with medicines recommended by sympathetic friends.

On December 14, authorities said, Anita's family decided she was dead and arranged a funeral.

On the way to the church mourners were startled to hear noises coming from Anita's coffin. They looked inside and found her breathing.

The local priest ordered the girl rushed to the general hospital at Port au Prince. Dr. Paul Dismanles, head of the hospital staff, said Anita gained full consciousness three days after her "funeral" and was able to talk intelligently.

He said her illness had been diagnosed as a type of malaria. Her condition, he said, was fair.

Meeting Forms Bus Service Protest Plan

FOUR CORNERS, Jan. 19.—(AP)—A group of suburban Salem residents indicated at a mass meeting here tonight that they plan to ask the Salem city council to assume jurisdiction over tariffs and schedules of all city buses operating within three miles of the city limits.

About 30 persons, representing Swegle, Auburn, Fruitland, Four Corners and Keizer, attended the meeting which was called in protest to recent changes in City Transit lines service to suburban areas.

The decision to seek council action was made in the form of a series of resolutions, which also included a suggestion that the city council meet with representatives of suburban areas before considering any changes in bus service or rates which affect areas outside Salem.

Tonight's meeting in the community hall was the second of its kind held this month and was presided over by Jack Gordon.

U. S. PESSIMISTIC

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—(AP)—The state department said bluntly tonight that because of Russian "obstacles" it doubts whether further progress can be made in Austrian treaty talks set for London next Tuesday. They have dragged on for three years.

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Personal presents
My Friend Irma
LLOYD - LYNN - BLAKE - JEAN MARION
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SECOND FEATURE
"STATE DEPT.—FILE 649"
In Color

BPA Manager



New manager of Bonneville Power administration is Charles Dunn (above), who has been district engineer since 1947 and with Bonneville since 1938. The district includes Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties, among its 15 Oregon and Washington counties. Headquarters is Vancouver, Wash.

Gerald Watson Dies Following Heart Surgery

Gerald D. Watson, co-owner of Salem's Sunset Do-Nut company, died Thursday in Boston, Mass., following a delicate heart operation Monday. He was 25.

Transfusions requiring 28 pints of blood had been given Watson at Peter Brent Brigham hospital following the operation, his second in a year due to a high blood pressure condition.

His wife, Lucille, and his mother, Mrs. Betty Watson, were at his bedside at the time of his death, relatives reported here.

Watson with his partner, F. G. Pavey, started the Sunset Do-Nut company July 1, 1947. Previously Watson had served as assistant to City Treasurer Paul Hauser.

Born Jan. 1, 1925, in Portland, Watson later moved to this city and was a graduate of Salem high school. He was a member of Masonic lodge 4, AF & AM.

Surviving, in addition to his widow and mother, are his two children, Gerald 5, and Michael, 2, and a brother Howard Watson of Salem.

'Men Needed As Teachers in Grade Schools'

OREGON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, Jan. 19.—This country needs more men as teachers in its elementary schools, Dr. Claude D. Mexico of the University of New Mexico told an Oregon college conference on parent-teacher cooperation here Thursday.

Wizel and Dr. Eldridge T. McSwain of Northwestern university were main speakers at the one-day meet for state and regional PTA leaders and educators.

McSwain told the group that PT-A is working for better conditions for the child first and the teacher second. He suggested that education leaders, parents and PT-A leaders get together and discuss new courses that may be needed in schools.

More social action and less "socialism" in PT-A was stressed throughout the meet.

Said Wizel, "Neither parents nor teachers alone can rear a child in today's complex society. Growing up today comprises a process which must go on for 18 to 30 years."

Special Levy Call Issued in Portland

PORTLAND, Jan. 19.—(AP)—A special levy, of possibly \$750,000, was suggested by Mayor Dorothy McCullough Lee today to provide essential city services for Portland during the rest of this fiscal year.

She said such a levy might not be necessary, and that she would not ask for an election on it unless it proved essential. The city is now trying to economize to meet the money shortage.

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Administration Said Favorable To Super Bomb

By John M. Hightower
WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Prevailing opinion in the Truman administration today was reportedly favorable to production of the hydrogen superbomb on which experimental work is already being pushed.

President Truman himself left wide open the possibility that he may eventually order production of the weapon which some estimates say would be 1,000 times more powerful than present A-bombs.

The chief executive did this at his news conference by refusing to comment on a direct question whether production of the hydrogen bomb is being considered by him. This contrasted with the specific answers he gave to a number of other inquiries on atomic matters.

The super bomb question was raised in connection with spreading reports of top level discussions centering on whether this country should make another effort to obtain Soviet agreement on atomic controls or whether it should go ahead with its super bomb plans regardless.

Replies with Flat 'No'
When asked point blank: "Are you considering direct negotiations with Russia on the H-bomb?" the president replied with a flat no.

He gave a similar denial when a reporter inquired whether Chairman David E. Lilienthal of the atomic energy commission had offered to undertake a special mission to Moscow on the atomic problem.

Lilienthal, who is due to resign February 15, is understood to oppose production of the hydrogen bomb at least until another effort has been made to win the Soviets over to this country's proposal for strict international control of all atomic weapons.

But when Mr. Truman was asked: "Do you have under consideration the production of a hydrogen bomb?" he fended it off with the statement he could make no comment.

His answer was in line with information available from top officials in the administration which boils down to this:

1. At some point, probably in a matter of few weeks, the matter will be directly confronted with the need of deciding whether the American government should go ahead with construction of a bomb which scientists believe could devastate an area covering hundreds of square miles.

2. Present government policy calls for assembly of all facts on the subject—a factor which top officials interpret as meaning that experimental work, preliminary to production, is moving ahead full speed.

3. The possibility of manufacturing the H-bomb figures largely in the state department's review of international atomic policy. The primary question there is whether any kind of new approach could be made to the Russians at this time which would brighten the prospects for an eventual international control of atomic energy?

4. Defense department chiefs, varying some sensational and unexpected change for the better in the world situation, are for going ahead with the bomb production as a matter of American security and of keeping this country ahead in the armaments race.

5. So far the major objection to superbomb production has arisen from among the AEC's scientists, one group of whom feels it would be morally wrong for the United States to make such a weapon without first exhausting every possibility of trying to get together with the Russians and others on an international control system.

It thus appears that the weight of opinion in the administration on the side of the bomb production, under present world conditions.

But on Capitol Hill some lawmakers are concerned over the prospects of an armaments race.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Shortstop Virgil Stallcup and outfielder Lloyd Merriman, a bonus player, have signed their 1950 contracts with the Cincinnati Reds, it was announced tonight. Utility infielder Sammy Meeks, outfielders Bobby Usher and Walter Post, and catcher Hobie Landrith also have signed. Warren Giles, president and general manager, stated.

GUAM HAS BEEN A U. S. possession for the last half century.

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Railroad Fortune Heiress on Way Home After Being Found In \$20, Week Dishwashing Job

VANCOUVER, B.C., Jan. 19.—(AP)—A poor little rich girl who turned her back on a \$2,000,000 Canadian Pacific railway fortune in favor of a \$4.50 a week attic room and a dishwashing job, was on her way home tonight against her will.

The Canadian press today said it learned definitely that a 17-year-old girl detained here this week is Beverly Van Horne, pretty brunet great-granddaughter of Sir William Van Horne, one of the builders of the Canadian Pacific railway.

Tonight the girl is in the Canadian Pacific-owned Palliser hotel in Calgary, awaiting an airplane transportation back to her home in Montreal.

She was whisked aboard a transcontinental plane here last night and stamped out "No!" when a battery of reporters and cameramen met her plane in Calgary and asked her whether she was going home.

Miss Van Horne, a freshman at McGill university, left Montreal for the 3,000-mile trip here December 16 after doing her best to cover her trail of escape.

Positive Identification
The Canadian press quoted a source who declined to be named, as positively identifying the heiress. The source also told some of the "poor little rich girl's" story.

He said her flight from a fashionable home to a \$4.50 a week attic room was an attempt to "be herself."

"She wanted to be thought of as a pretty coed instead of a \$2,000,000 piece of property. She wanted to draw her own paycheck and have her own friends," the source said.

"There was nothing mysterious or sordid about her adventure. She probably enjoyed every minute of it and now she's going home and that's the end of it."

In Boarding House
The heiress took the attic room in a cheap boarding house and got a \$20 a week job as a dishwasher. She had to pawn a \$175 Sapphire ring for \$3 to help pay her first week's rent. The rest she borrowed from another roomer.

On January 10, a missing persons bureau detective from Montreal, Detective Sgt. William Phillips, acted on a tip from a boy friend of the girl's in Hamilton, Ont., to which she had written.

The detective spotted her and the adventure was over. When Vancouver newspapermen closed in on the story Tuesday night, Phillips denied the girl being held in a detention home was the missing heiress, describing her merely as a "publicity-seeking impostor."

She was confined in a comfortable but sparsely furnished room in the juvenile detention home here until a Montreal police official arrived to take her back to her grandparents in the east.

Before the runaway heiress left here, police reclaimed jewelry she had pawned for \$25 to supplement her meager income.

The jewelry included the \$175 Sapphire ring, a turquoise and diamond pendant, a pearl and gold pendant and a blue enamelled cross.

PORTLAND, Jan. 19.—(AP)—The state liquor control commission, in an almost unprecedented change, decided today to hold next Wednesday's meeting at Klamath Falls.

The commission practically always meets in either Portland, or, in rare cases, in Salem, although there is no rule requiring that.

The Klamath Falls session was set to enable Commissioner W. A. Spangler, Klamath Falls, to attend. He has been ill.

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Second baseman George Stinnewiss today signed his 1950 contract, the 30-year-old infielder has been with the Yanks since 1943. He was moved out of the regular second base berth last season by young Gerry Coleman. Stinnewiss hit 261 in 70 games in 1949.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—(AP)—The democratic majority in the senate today beat down a republican move for immediate consideration of a \$670,000,000 reduction in excise tax.

A motion by Senator Cain (R-Wash) to lay aside other business and take up the excise cuts was defeated 45 to 35. The vote followed party lines, with one exception. Senator McCarran, Nevada democrat, voted with 34 republicans on the losing side.

The decision, however, did not foreclose action later this session on the excise tax issue.

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3 Salem Bus Runs Bugged Down by Slush

(Story also on page 1.)
City Transit lines curtailed bus service on three Salem runs Thursday as equipment bogged down in the slush. Unless snowplows get over the roads involved, there will be no changes in the picture today, said R. J. Davidson, manager.

The Browning avenue and Boone road buses are not running on Ratcliff drive, Fairview and Browning avenue nor to 12th-street cutoff. The South Commercial street bus is not going up Hanson avenue into the Candelaria district.

Davis Optimistic
In downtown Salem the street situation should be considerably better this morning, said City Engineer J. Harold Davis, about midnight. Crews are working around the clock to remove the slush and snow and will gradually branch out after cleaning out the downtown business area, he said.

If predicted temperatures arrive, the bulk of the city's snow will go tomorrow, said Davis. But he saw no serious flood problem coming up immediately. He thought it possible that water might get up over curbs in places, however.

Willamette river authorities said it would take "at least four or five days of prime conditions" before it could reach flood stage. It is about 18 feet shy of that at present and had not started to rise Thursday.

Some telephone trouble shooters were on the run all day Thursday as ice snapped several telephone wires in suburban Salem areas.

Nearly Normal
But service in Salem was nearly normal and instances of trouble were "remarkably few," according to Elmer Berglund, Salem manager for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co.

Some of the Salem men were dispatched to Dallas where more trouble was encountered with ice-laden wires. In Salem suburbs 26 emergency conditions were worked on.

"Silver thaw" damage in Salem appeared mostly minor. A conspicuous exception was a magnolia tree on the county courthouse lawn which shed many icy branches. Many bushes and shrubs were broken.

United Air lines flights here remained cancelled.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—(AP)—Faced with an almost certain bolt by southern democrats, President Truman said today he has been assured of victory in a critical test that could jeopardize his "fair deal" program.

The test is due tomorrow with a house vote on a significant change in its legislative rules.

Mr. Truman told his news conference the forecast of an administration triumph came from Chairman Sabath (D-Ill) of the house rules committee during a 20-minute conference at the White House.

The president said Sabath assured him he had the votes to beat down a resolution sponsored by a coalition of republicans and Dixie democrats on the house rules committee to repeal the so-called 21-day rule.

House Speaker Rayburn (D-Tex) likewise told newsmen he felt confident the resolution would be defeated.

In brief, the present rule which was put into effect last year sets a 21-day limit on how long the house rules committee can block a bill from reaching the house floor.

If the rule is repealed, a majority of the committee could sidetrack any legislation almost indefinitely.

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