

Flood Fighters Stay Ahead of Swollen Des Moines River at All Major Sites

DES MOINES (AP)—Flood fighters stayed ahead of the swollen waters of the Des Moines River on all major fronts Thursday night as a record crest of just over 30 feet surged through the city.

"We have every reason to believe we shall be able to ride out the flood but we can't let down until this crest drops several feet," said City Manager Leonard Howell.

After reaching an apparent peak of 30.18 feet at 7 a.m. (CST) the river held almost steady for hours. The crest was far higher than the 26.5-foot peak reached in the 1947 flood when a major levee broke.

As the peak flood rolled southward it spread over thousands of acres of bottom land, causing new damage. In a single area near Runnels, a few miles below Des Moines, the river spread across about 30 feet.

Far downstream the city of Ottumwa, last major point before the Des Moines joins the Mississippi, girded for high waters over the weekend. A crest of 16½ feet to 17 feet is due in Ottumwa Sunday

night but officials there said they were confident their defenses could handle such a flood.

In 1947, due to heavy rains below Des Moines, Ottumwa had 10,000 homeless when the river rose to 20 feet.

Des Moines flood officials said a major victory was the apparently successful effort to keep water out of a large area of the East Side business district. The main business district on the West Side was not threatened.

Cat Used as Fire Alarm

CLAYTON, N. Y. (AP)—A gray and white cat named Muggsy has seven toes on each foot and he makes good use of them. When an electrical storm knocked down a high-tension wire outside the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Baker, Muggsy's owners, the cat clawed at the blankets of Mrs. Baker's bed until she woke, saw sparks showering around the house and notified the power company.

Most of the 7,500 Des Moines flood evacuees will have to remain away from their homes another night. The waters will remain above the 23-foot flood stage until Saturday. There had been no loss of life. Most evacuations were precautionary but some 300 homes in the general Des Moines area were flooded.

Col. Nelson LeClair Jr., district Army Engineer at Rock Island, Ill., estimated flood damage in North-West Iowa streams which flow into the Missouri River.

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DES MOINES (AP)—"What," asked sixth grade Teacher Harriet Scanlan, "is an autobiography?" "An autobiography," replied Pupil Gary Loveless, "is the life story of an automobile."

Boy 6, Has a Way With Women

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Michael O'Malley, 6, told his girl chum, "Come on. Let's go over to our house and play."

"Can't. My mother won't let me cross the street," the little girl said.

"Let me handle it," said Mike. "Women go for me."

He entered the house and returned in a few minutes. The little girl's mother opened the door. "Okay, you can go," she said.

Statesman, Salem, Ore., Friday, June 25, 1954—(Sec. 1)—3

ice building with appropriate ceremony. When the crowd departed construction workers cast a critical eye, calmly lifted the 100-pound stone and relaid it to suit their ideas.

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