

Vicious Weather Leaves 43 Persons Dead; Floods and Wind Bring Damage

By UNITED PRESS
Blizzards, winds and floods of spring left thousands of persons homeless and more than 40 dead across the nation today. Damage was counted in the millions of dollars.

The young season's first storm whipped into eastern Canada after burying the Midwest under a blizzard, sending wind storms and tornadoes whirling through the Ohio Valley, and unleashing some of the worst floods in a half century on the South.

But a new major snow storm roared into the Dakotas and parts of eastern Wyoming early today. There was six inches of new snow in northern Wyoming and winds were rising in the area.

The floods, storms and cold weather took at least 43 lives in 17 states. Traffic accidents killed 21 persons; six died in tornadoes or wind storms; six died in floods; two by exhaustion, two by exposure and two were electrocuted by fallen wires. Fires killed four.

Spring Outdoors Winter
Spring was only three days old, but its storms had already outdone winter in viciousness and destructiveness.

Broken down by areas, this is what the first three days of spring had done to the nation:

The Midwest: Drifts were 10 feet deep in northern Indiana and more than 14 inches of snow hit Wisconsin's Fox River Valley. Damage was estimated in the millions in Michigan, where 70 mile-per-hour winds blew in hundreds of windows and drove waves from Lake St. Clair into Fair Haven homes. Hundreds of flooded-out families were receiving care at the Fair Haven firehall.

The South: Torrential rains swelled flood waters in Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee, and 2,000 persons were already homeless. Red Cross disaster teams moved in along Mississippi's Tombigbee river to evacuate lowlanders living in the path of the worst flood crest in 50 years. A convoy of National Guard trucks went to Columbus, Miss., with equipment to care for 600 families.

Ohio 'Wind-Lashed'

The Ohio Valley: Damage was estimated in the hundreds of thousands of dollars in Ohio after winds hit 70 miles per hour and a tornado lashed east Masillon. Western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia were also hard hit. A tornado killed a man at West Chester, Pa., and winds of almost 60 miles per hour smashed in windows in downtown Pittsburgh, Pa., hotels and suburban homes.

The Southwest: The cold wave proved a boon to parched farmlands, but was a death blow to peach crop was a total loss and damage to plum trees was expected to be as bad.

Humans weren't the only ones to feel the storm's fury. The birds had it almost as bad. At La Porte, Ind., freezing rain iced the wings of a flock of robins. They tied up an intersection until they were able to hobble off on foot.

At Hudsonville, Mich., 100 starlings sought shelter next to a generator. They caused a short circuit which killed them.

Air Strikes Against Mainland Plan of Nationalist Leader

Taipei, Formosa—(U.P.)—Gen. "Tiger" Wang Shu-Ming, Nationalist Air Force commander, said today he would recommend air strikes against Communist mainland jet bases now under construction when they become a threat to Formosa.

Wang told United Press he will urge the Taipei government to destroy Red China's air

strength before it can attack Formosa or the offshore islands of Quemoy and Matsu.

May Be Ready Soon

Wang said the Communists may be ready within a month to move jet planes into two reconstructed fields within easy flying distance of Nationalist China.

"As soon as they move in that

is the time for us to strike," he said through an interpreter. "We should hit them before they get off the ground."

Asked if he would seek top military approval for mainland attacks against Communist build-ups, he replied, "yes, we will recommend that the government do that."

The 49-year-old air chief said the two major air fields under construction for the use of jet fighters and bombers were near the South China coast. From the fields to Formosa the flying time is barely 20 minutes.

He said one field is at Fochow, only about 30 miles west of Matsu island and about 150 miles northwest of Taipei. The second is near Luichow, about 32 miles west of the Tachen Islands which were abandoned in February.

He said the concrete runway at Fochow had been lengthened "and we have seen evidence that the Communists are building ground installations needed in combat operations." The installations include fueling dumps, fire fighting equipment, ground shops and anti-aircraft artillery.

"Luichow airfield is still under construction and probably will be completed in one month," he said. He added that some aircraft already had been moved into the bases but that the main Communist forces had not yet arrived from the north.

Seaside Weekly Paper To Observe 50th Year

Seaside—(U.P.)—The Seaside Signal will observe its 50th anniversary Friday and Saturday with a two-day open house. Max Schaefer, editor and publisher, said the first edition went to press March 25, 1905, just a few hundred feet from the newspaper's new plant.

The paper was started by R. M. Watson who published it until 1911. It has not missed a single weekly edition since then.

Sams Valley-Beagle Soil District Meets; Work Reports Given

George A. Loftin, Beagle, has been reelected to a three-year term on the board of supervisors for the Sams Valley-Beagle Soil Conservation district.

Loftin was reelected at the district's annual meeting, held this week at Eagle Point Grange hall.

The board will reorganize at the next regular meeting of the district. Present members of the board, in addition to Loftin, are L. E. James, Sams Valley, chairman; R. Bruce Grieve, Prospect, vice-chairman; Earl B. Day, Central Point, treasurer; Frank Straus, Sams Valley; A. T. Watenberg, Eagle Point, and B. L. Dodge, Medford, supervisors, and W. B. Tucker, Medford, secretary.

The program for the annual meeting, which was attended by about 40 district members, included a report by Lester James on district accomplishments during the past year.

These included 1,023 acres in conservation crop rotation, 720 acres in crop residue utilization, 217 acres in cross slope farming, 914 acres in fertilization, 2,567 acres in proper use of pasture, and 9,245 acres in soil surveys.

Water-use work done by the district during the past year included seven irrigation reservoirs with a combined capacity of 1,573 acre feet; 425 acres under improved water application, 603 acres under irrigation water management; 1.75 miles of open drain ditches, 563 acres under sprinkler irrigation; 17 miles of streambank stabilization, and 2.2 acres of waterway development.

The district's 1954 program also included start of two certified tree farms containing a combined total of 345 acres.

The district had 144 cooperators to Jan. 1; 121 applications for assistance, and 68 applications for assistance.

Robert C. Baum, executive secretary of the state soil conservation committee, reviewed bills affecting soil conservation districts which are now before the state legislature. These include a measure which would allow the Sams Valley-Beagle district to change its name.

Other items on the program included a discussion of soil sampling, by County Agent W. B. Tucker; a talk on minerals

and present day prospecting methods in Oregon, and a motion picture on the history of plant and animal life, shown by Lester V. Davenport, Grants Pass.

CAP Cadet Earns High Test Rating

The Medford squadron of the Civil Air patrol presented a certificate of accomplishment to Cadet Jerry Ross Conners at the regular Monday night meeting.

Conners completed a test covering weather in the CAP study manual with the highest grade of any cadet in the Medford squadron. Cadet Conners is one of the newer cadets in the squadron and it required outside studying and work to pass the stiff test with such high honors, CAP officers said.

The certificate was signed by the training officer, Lt. Cecil Davis, aeronautical instructor, and by the commanding officer, Capt. Marella Luschen. Captain Luschen presented the certificate to Conners.

Annual UMC Dinner Tomorrow Evening

The annual dinner meeting of the United Methodist Church will be held at the Medford YMCA building at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Frank Lockman, secretary of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce will be the principal speaker, and will be introduced by G. R. (Spike) Durham, Salem, of the Oregon Chest.

A. R. (Tony) Manno, president of the UMC, will preside. Election of directors will be held after the dinner. Some 175 to 200 persons are expected to attend.

Cub Pack 44

A meeting of Cub Pack 44 will be held Thursday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m., at the Lone Pine school. Cubs and parents are invited.

Howard J. Veal
Committeeman.

Two U.S. Chamber Officials Set Visit In Medford Monday

Two officials of the United States Chamber of Commerce will visit in Medford next Monday, to meet with members of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce.

They are Lisle Berkshire, San Francisco, manager of the western division of the U.S.C. of C., and Harry Lintz, Portland, northwest representative.

They will meet for a 7:30 a.m. breakfast with the newly-organized education committee of the chamber here, and will attend the noon round-table session open to all members at the Jackson hotel.

To Work With Schools

Their visit is in connection with a nation-wide effort on the part of the U. S. chamber to work toward better understanding of American business and economics in the schools. The formation of the education committee, which is headed by Ron Gandee, a former schoolteacher, is along the same lines.

Chamber leaders point out that recent surveys in the schools have shown a great misunderstanding of the motives of the business community, and of the economic system as a whole. The objective of the education committee is to work toward a better understanding among American students.

Discussions with the two U.S. chamber officials will include this problem, and also national affairs as they reflect on business conditions, according to chamber spokesmen.

McKay Concerned by OC Road Fund Slash

Salem—(U.P.)—A slash of \$20,000 from a \$2,250,000 request for funds to construct access roads in O and C lands in Oregon by the House Appropriations Committee is of great concern to Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay, he said here today.

"While this amount is comparatively small," he said, "nonetheless we need every cent of the requested amount to build access roads if we are to cut out vast amounts of ripe timber now standing on these reseeded lands. Unless this timber can be cut during the next two years much of it will become worthless."

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