

Indiana, Illinois Residents Evacuated By Surging River

Russellville, Ill. — (UPI) — The maverick Wabash river cracked through levees in Indiana and Illinois today, routing about 600 persons and washing out about 35 square miles of rich valley farmland.

Floodwise residents of farms and small communities in the path of the cascading water fled quickly and safely to higher ground.

The Wabash, on its worst rampage in nearly half a century, tore through weakened levees Tuesday at Oaktown, Ind., and two miles south of Russellville. The break on the Illinois side was the most severe.

A 200-foot hole torn in the levee near Russellville sent tons of water surging over a quarter of a mile of countryside within a 10-minute period. Thousands of acres of winter wheat were destroyed in fields under as much as three feet of water.

Work Through Night

Farmers along the fringes of the flood worked through the night by the light of car headlights emptying silos of grain and moving to higher ground.

Others caught by the first rush of the floodwaters fled by rowboat, Army duck, truck, car or foot, juggling whatever equipment and possessions they could.

All 50 residents of the nearby village of Westport fled, with store owners and tavern keepers taking as much of their wares as they could.

The flooding came unexpectedly as the river had begun receding and levees were expected to hold. However, the relentless pounding of the high water weakened and finally punched through the eastern mounds along the storied Wabash.

Exodus Orderly

U.S. 50 between Russellville and Vincennes, Ind., was the main escape route and it was jammed Tuesday by farmers with grain wagons, tractors and trucks hauling goods to safety. Cattle cars from the Vincennes stockyard joined the rush, moving livestock to safety.

State policeman Claude Rollins said the traffic was orderly as most of the refugees knew what to do and where to go.

"We get a flood around here every seven years," Rollins said. "These people all have some place to go."

Sen. Neuberger Defends Bill on Seeking Offices

Salem — (UPI) — U.S. Sen. Richard Neuberger Tuesday came to the defense of a bill introduced by Rep. Clarence Barton (D-Coquille) which would prevent full time state officials from running continually for other offices at mid-term.

Said Neuberger: "I would not want the impression conveyed that Democrats were trying to prevent Gov. Mark Hatfield from running in 1960 for the seat I now occupy in the U.S. Senate. Therefore, I urge that present state officials be exempt from the scope of the law."

Favors Public Opinion

Neuberger added "if Gov. Hatfield abandons an elective office for the third successive time at mid-term — without having completed a full term in any of them — I believe the issue ought to be settled in the court of public opinion rather than by a law."

Neuberger said it was his understanding that no Oregon governor in 100 years had ever abandoned that office in mid-term.

"In my opinion, Gov. Hatfield will abide by this tradition and will not continue his practice of filing for a new office 14 months after he has been sworn in for a four-year term in another office," Neuberger said.

He said he thought the Legislature would be able to decide on Barton's bill less passionately if present state officials were left out, however.

Plane Damaged By Lightning Bolt

Alameda NAS, Calif. — (UPI) — A Navy patrol bomber carrying 10 men was damaged by lightning over the Pacific ocean Tuesday, but the pilot brought it 100 miles through stormy skies to a safe landing.

One was injured, a section of the tail was sheared off, and the navigation equipment was knocked out by the bolt which struck the nose and cracked the length of the plane.

The twin-engine Neptune was returning from a 10-hour anti-submarine patrol when the bolt of lightning hit.

Aviation Machinist Mate 3C B. R. Cheetwood, 23, who was working as spotter in the bow, was knocked unconscious and received burns on his right foot. The Navy said the injuries were not serious.

Lt. (jg) George V. Parker, 23, Kiota, Okla., who was at the controls, brought the crippled plane in safely.

Car-Train Crash Kills Young Mother

Adrian, Ore. — (UPI) — A young mother was killed instantly and her 6-week-old daughter was injured seriously late Tuesday when the car she was driving was struck by a Union Pacific train at a crossing about one mile north of here.

Dead is Bobbie Jo Freund, 26.

Witnesses said the train moved her station wagon about 200 feet down the track. The vehicle was not overturned and the baby was found inside. The woman, however, was thrown from the car and struck by the train.

Hypnotist Schedules Show in Medford

Dr. Nicholas Kit, a hypnotist, will present a program at Hedrick Junior High school at 8 p.m. Feb. 26, 27 and 28.

The program is being sponsored by the Medford Chamber of Commerce. Les Stott is general chairman of the project, assisted by Chuck Foley and Don Carlson.

Dr. Kit is scheduled to give several demonstrations on hypnosis, including one in which 20 or more local volunteers will be placed in a hypnotic spell at one time.

Griffin Creek Scouts Visit Mail Tribune

Members of Den 4, Pack 41, Griffin Creek school, visited the plant of the Mail Tribune yesterday afternoon.

They were Gary Ludwig, J. D. Bryan, Jimmy Steinbach, Marc Prentice, Joe Killingsworth, Dale Fosdal, Kenneth Boetcher, Carl Oswald, Rick Pyle, Danny Kime, Ben Smith and Jeffery Stathos. They were accompanied by Mrs. Evelyn Bryan, Den Mother, Mrs. John Steinbach and Mrs. Jack Boetcher, both assistant Den Mothers. Judy Boetcher was a visitor with the group.

Normal population of Vatican City is 1,025.



"DEAD ENDER" DRUNK—Huntz Hall, 38, one of the former "Dead End Kids" sits in the sheriff's station at Malibu, Cal., charged with drunk driving. Police said that Hall was belligerent when police stopped him on the Pacific Coast Highway, and that he failed to pass a sobriety test.

Anti-Picketing Bill Supported, Rapped at Salem

Salem — (UPI) — The "anti-picketing bill" was alternately supported and blasted before the House Labor and Industries committee Tuesday.

The hearing was held on SB3 which passed the Senate by a vote of 17-11. It would repeal the ban on organizational picketing. Speaking for the bill were George Brown, AFL-CIO; Norman Nilsen, Labor commissioner and AFL-CIO Attorney Donald Richardson.

State Labor Elections Director Francis Reagan told the hearing that the present ban on organizational picketing can't be enforced. He asked that the law be retained in an amended form to make the election provisions more workable.

Grocers Opposed

The bill was opposed by the Oregon Independent Retail Grocers' association, represented by Harold Carlson.

The association, in a statement, said that top union leaders have promised repeal of

the law will not result in wholesale picketing for organizational purposes. Carlson added that top officials cannot guarantee their local unions will not resume their previous practices of "illegal organizational picketing."

The grocers asked that the matter be submitted to the voters at the 1960 elections.



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