

# Flora's Toll Still Being Counted As Hurricane Season Comes to End

MIAMI (UPI)—The 1963 hurricane season ended today. It will be remembered long into the future as the year of Flora.

For Flora goes into weather records as the "most deadly tropical cyclone ever to occur in the Atlantic area." Tentative—and conservative—figures compiled from the best sources available list Flora's death toll at 6,791 and its property damage at \$434 million.

But for Flora, the most abnormal thing about the June 15-16-Nov. 15 season was Ginny, a hurricane that kept the whole southeastern U.S. coastline boarded up for almost a week while it did a slow loop offshore—but then headed north at sea to strike Nova Scotia.

Eight Storms

In all there were eight tropical storms—starting with Arlene and winding up with Helena—

and only the last one missed growing into a full-fledged hurricane. Cindy, late in September, was the only one to strike the U.S. mainland, causing at least two deaths and widespread crop damage in Texas.

Beulah, the second hurricane, was seeded with silver iodide crystals by high-flying Navy jets while weathermen recorded the effect on instrument-packed planes inside the storm.

But the result of these small-scale experiments to determine if man can ever control the giants of nature still are being recorded in columns of computer figures.

All of the infamy of the season belongs to Flora, whose destruction and death were spread over six Caribbean islands. Her fringe waves battered South Florida at one point near the end of a nine-day rampage, causing the death of a swimmer.

But her worst blows were to the remote mountain regions of southwestern Haiti, where the tempest struck with winds estimated up to 200 miles an hour, and in Cuba, smashed relentlessly for four days as Flora crisscrossed the eastern half of the Communist island.

History Compiled

Gordon E. Dunn, chief hurricane forecaster of the Miami weather bureau, compiled the history of Flora's devastation from weather stations in the islands, government reports from Haiti, and radio broadcasts from Cuba monitored by press media.

Here are Dunn's estimates, in the order of Flora's rampage: the island of Tobago, 17 killed and \$30 million damage; Trinidad, \$100,000 damage; Grenada, six dead, \$25,000 damage; Haiti, 5,000 dead and \$85 million in destruction; Dominican Republic, six dead and \$7 million in damage; Cuba, 1,750 killed and \$300 million in devastation; the Bahamas, \$25,000 damage, and Florida, one dead.

Exile sources in Miami have put the death toll in Cuba at 4,000, Dunn's figure is based on reports of the dead and missing from Fidel Castro's government radio.

Dunn says that remote areas of Haiti and the Dominican Republic still are to be heard from. That over 50 people are not included in the toll are among the missing in numerous boats unheard from since the tempestuous night when Flora smashed into Haiti's Tiburon peninsula.

He calls the \$434 million estimate "conservative . . . it may well exceed a half-billion."

The closest hurricane disaster to Flora in this part of the world was the Galveston hurricane of 1900, which took an estimated 5,000 lives.

Spotted by Tiros

It was on Thursday, Sept. 26, that America's Tiros weather satellite impressively photographed from space and transmitted to the U.S. weather bureau in Washington the first picture of a cloud mass far east of the Caribbean in the tropical Atlantic.

Tiros took another picture on Friday, but on Saturday and Sunday was not in position to keep up checks on what was nothing more than a suspicious depression in an area of few ship reports. But on Sunday, weathermen estimated from previous reports the area must be approaching the vicinity of

Tobago and Trinidad, off the north coast of Venezuela, and ordered a hurricane hunter plane to check the area on Monday.

On Monday, the Navy reconnaissance plane from Puerto Rico found a "circular, well-defined eye, eight miles thick, indicating Flora was the most concentrated and best organized tropical cyclone in the past two years," Dunn says.

At 1:40 p.m. that day, barely two hours after Flora had been given a name, the hurricane smashed into Tobago with sustained winds of 90 to 100 miles an hour, catching the island of Rot on Crusoe legend with little forewarning and unroofing scores of native homes and tourist motels.

Slashing into the Caribbean, the growing storm brushed Grenada with its deadly winds—

and caused some damage on the island of Martinique which was still counting several dead, plus crop damage from hurricane Edith the week before.

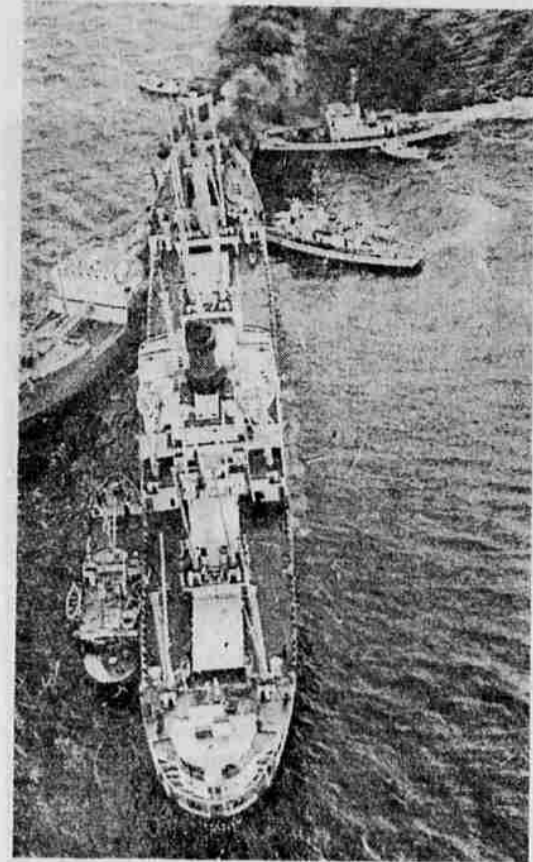
It was on Wednesday, after Flora's steady march across the Caribbean, that the afternoon turned black as midnight in Haiti, the land of impoverishment and voodoo. By evening, sustained winds of 140 miles an hour were clocked and gusts of 180 and 200 miles an hour raked the mountain forests and ramshackle fishing towns.

"Destruction over the mountainous terrain of the Haitian peninsula ranged from severe to complete," Dunn's report says. "Flash floods washed

high pressure area to the north blocked Flora's advance, and for three more days the hurricane pummeled the cattle ranches, coffee and sugar plantations of Cuba's three easternmost provinces without let-up.

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SHIPS BURN — The Norwegian freighter Fernview, foreground, and the tanker Dynafuel, front left, are shown stuck together and afire off Buzzards Bay, Mass. Coast Guard vessels and tugs help to remove the crews. There were no fatalities. (UPI)

**The Medical Roundup**

By *Walter Alway*

Emeritus Consultant in Medicine  
Mayo Clinic  
Emeritus Professor of Medicine  
Mayo Clinic  
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1963)

**Boils**

A woman writes to say that, of late, she has had one series of boils after another, and she wonders if perhaps she should consult a dermatologist (skin specialist). Yes; I think that would be wise; but, if I had such boils, I would get a medical check-up and, particularly, I'd have my blood sugar measured to make sure I was not coming down with diabetes.

If my boils kept coming only in my armpits, I might consider having the skin removed from my armpits and other skin

transplanted there from my thighs or my abdominal wall.

**Getting Patients Up Quickly**

Today, the tendency among surgeons is, after an operation, to get the patient up and walking—round as quickly as possible—sometimes on the second day. I walked around on the fourth day after a big abdominal operation. This walking makes for a "needier recovery, and it tends to save the person from getting a clot of blood in one of his large leg veins.

Interestingly, many years ago there was a surgeon who tried hard to stir up our profession to get patients up quickly, but for some time no one would listen to him, and no one would publish his paper, which, of course, is typical of human nature.

Today, women who have had a baby are allowed to be up and about much earlier than they used to be 50 years ago.

**Activities Guide Received by McGill**

ASHLAND — Dr. E. C. McGill, assistant to the president in academic affairs, Southern Oregon College, has received copies of an activities guide for business courses, which he co-authored.

Published by the Gregg division of the McGraw-Hill Book Company, the guide is primarily intended for use with the textbook "Business Principles, Organization, and Management" also co-authored by Dr. McGill. The guide may also be used in a student activities manual in conjunction with any text in the field.

Co-authors for the publication, both of which are in the second printing, are Dr. Herbert A. "Tonne, chairman of the department of business education, New York University, and Dr. Sidney I. Simon, professor of economics at Rutgers and a member of the New York State Bar.

**American PayCheck May Become Extinct**

CHICAGO (UPI) — A communications scientist said today the American pay check may become extinct.

Joseph W. Halina of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp., Paramus, N.J., told the National Automation Conference that automation techniques eventually will include the wage earners' weekly check.

"The average wage earner may never need to handle his check," he said, "or, if he does, it will be a confirming copy, possibly to show to his wife."

**Medford Girl Cited Following Accident**

Joan Patricia Murphy, 20, of 15 Newtown St., was cited for failure to stop after she was involved in a two-car accident in Medford Wednesday, city police reported.

Driver of the other vehicle involved was Leland Dusayne Lyon, 26, Central Point. The mishap occurred about 2:40 p.m. at Barnett Road and Interstate 5. No injuries were reported, officers said.



Coming In The NOVEMBER 17TH Weekend Issue

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SECTION B MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1963 PAGES 1 to 12

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