

The Indianapolis Times

Cloudy and much colder tonight, lowest temperature

30 to 35; Wednesday generally fair.

HOME

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DAM BREAKS; HUNDREDS DROWN

TORRENT SLASHES PATH OF DEATH THROUGH RICH VALLEY OF CALIFORNIA

Toll of Life Soars Hourly,
With Vast Territory
in Ruins.

200 MAY BE VICTIMS

Scores of Homes in Direct Path of Huge Wall of Water.

BY DAN CAMPBELL
United Press Staff Correspondent

LOS ANGELES, March 13.—Swept by flood waters from a mountain reservoir, the historic Santa Clara River valley lay devastated today, while the death toll from the worst disaster on the Pacific Coast in recent years mounted hourly.

Cutting a sixty-mile path of death, the raging torrents from the St. Francis Dam, which collapsed at 1 a.m., raced through the valley, from the mountains to the sea.

Rescuers struggled frantically to invade the once peaceful river basin—now flooded and strewn with debris and the wreckage of homes and stores—to determine definitely the number of dead.

A check by the United Press shortly before 10 a.m. Pacific time, indicated the death list would reach 200 and might go far beyond. Whole towns were swept by the flood.

The following reports, as yet without official verification because of disrupted communication, had reached Los Angeles at that hour:

One hundred bodies reported recovered in the Santa Paula district.

Sixty-three bodies reported brought to Newhall.

Three bodies reported at the Harry Carey ranch.

Four bodies reported recovered at Fillmore.

Four bodies reported at Piru.

Twenty bodies reported discovered one mile west of Saugus.

The fate of four hundred or more families in the vicinity of Newhall, in the direct path of the wall of water liberated when the St. Francis dam burst, was unknown.

FEAR OF 100 LOST

No word had come from a colony of more than 100 employees of Los Angeles Power Company and it was feared many of them had been drowned.

Saugus officials said they believed it must have been impossible for families living just below the huge dam to have escaped the terrible torrent which swept down upon them as they slept.

Three unidentified bodies, those of a man, a woman and a child, were found on Harry Carey's ranch and trading post, which was obliterated by the flood.

BRIDES, ROADS DESTROYED

With all lines of communication broken and all roads and bridges destroyed, it was impossible to determine the extent of the damage and death spread by the torrent.

On the fringe of the stricken region rescue squads reported a desolate picture where peaceful homes and sleepy ranches once dotted the valley.

Property damage will total many millions.

Seven towns and cities situated along the Santa Clara River were reported practically destroyed.

The Los Angeles aqueduct dam crumbled under pressure of water from a cloudburst in the high Sierras, and 38,000-acres feet of water poured into the river basin. The flood swept towns before it in its wild dash.

TEARS OF RUIN

Buildings and homes were carried away by the head of water. It tore a path through the cities of Newhall, Fillmore, Saugus, Piru, Santa Paula, Saticey, Castaic, Oborg and Camarillo.

According to reports from Ventura, on the seacoast, near the mouth of the river, the Santa Clara River became a torrent fifty feet deep and two miles wide. Wrecked homes, helpless animals, and debris were carried along with the flood.

All bridges through the Santa Clara basin were swept away, including the Southern Pacific Railroad bridge between Ventura and

Whole Towns Are Blotted Out by Raging Sweep of Waters.

FEAR FOR COLONY OF 100

Roads and Bridges Ruined, Trains Halted, Power Lines Down.

Oxnard. Rail communication probably cannot be re-established for twenty-four hours at least.

The wall of water was two miles wide in places and was rolling down the valley toward the Pacific Ocean with such force that it was believed everything would be carried before it.

Authorities here began the task of coordinating relief work shortly after reports of the disaster reached Los Angeles. Sheriff William I. Traeger dispatched between 500 and 600 deputy sheriffs to the scene and fifty deputies from Ventura County were ordered out for relief work.

Police Chief James E. Davis ordered out 400 police officers, who were sent to the San Fernando division.

The Red Cross installed an emergency hospital at Newhall.

The Southern Pacific main line inland route to San Francisco still was intact, but the branch running from Saugus to Fillmore was wiped out, representatives of the railroad reported.

In Flood Path

LOS ANGELES, March 13.—The population of a number of the cities in the flood-stricken Santa Clara river basin was estimated as follows by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce: Fillmore, 25,000; Newhall, 800; Piru, 7,500; Santa Paula, 7,500.

The Indian store is half a mile down the ranch on the San Francisco road and, due to its low position, probably received the brunt of the water.

The first small rescue squads, sent into the flooded region before daybreak, reported that the onrush of water had caused great devastation.

The St. Francis dam was completed a year ago and is the second largest dam constructed by the Los Angeles bureau of power and light.

Southern California Edison Company power lines, serving Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, went down when the water struck.

The Red Cross installed an emergency hospital at Newhall.

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OPEN HOOVER OFFICE

Campaign Headquarters Are at Claypool.

State headquarters for the presidential campaign of Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce, were opened today in Room 725, the Claypool.

Oscar G. Foellinger Ft. Wayne banker and State manager of General Leonard Wood's presidential campaign in 1920, is lending a hand. Republican leaders throughout the State are aligning themselves with Hoover, Foellinger said, aiding materially in the formation of a State-wide Hoover-for-President organization.

THE FLIGHT TEST DELAYED

Breaking Up of Lake Ice Forces Stinson to Postpone Take-Off.

MT. CLEMENS, Mich., March 13.—Breaking up of the ice on Lake St. Clair caused indefinite postponement today of another attempt by Eddings Stinson, airplane manufacturer, and Capt. George Haldean to break the world's endurance flight record.

The fliers recently remained aloft 18½ hours and were forced down by a snow storm. The lake ice was used for the take-off.

EXPLAIN MEMORIAL DAY

Grand Army League Will Conduct Programs in Schools.

The annual drive to stimulate greater interest in observance of Memorial day, May 30, will be launched next week in the public and parochial schools here under auspices of the Grand Army League.

George Hawkins has been appointed chairman of the committee sponsoring the school programs.

Meaning of the holiday will be explained to pupils.

Hourly Temperatures

6 a.m.... 55 10 a.m.... 57

7 a.m.... 56 11 a.m.... 48

8 a.m.... 50 12 (noon).... 47

9 a.m.... 57 1 p.m.... 46

Bad Start

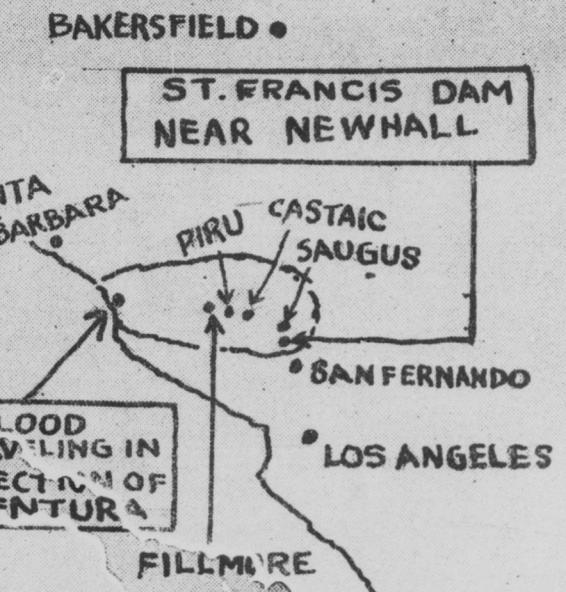
FT. WAYNE, Ind., March 13.—This year didn't start right for Herman Himmelstein. He filed suit for divorce from Mrs. Clara Himmelstein, who became his bride Jan. 1, 1928. The husband alleges she deserted him March 1, saying she would never return.

He and his wife were separated.

The ranch and Indian store owned by Harry Carey, movie star, two miles from Saugus, was swept away by the flood. It was not known whether any one on the ranch was lost.

Carey spent much of his time there. His family lived on the

Where Flood Raged



Giant Dam Erected Two Years Ago for \$1,250,000

LOS ANGELES, March 13.—The St. Francis dam had a water storage capacity of 38,000 acres feet, or 12,000,000,000 gallons. It was completed two years ago.

The dam was a great arched wall of concrete rising 200 feet from the San Francisquito canyon in a narrow gorge.

One hundred fifty feet wide at the base, the dam spread out fanwise between the walls of the canyon to a width of 1,250 feet at its crest.

The St. Francis dam was built at a cost of \$1,250,000 and was the largest basin of the municipal water department on the south end of the Owens River aqueduct.

Construction of the dam took a few days more than a year. Into it were poured 160,000 cubic yards of cement.

The reservoir formed by the dam was used to store water diverted from the main channel of the water carrier after it passed through the power bureaus San Francisquito power plant No. 1.

The dam was between the municipal power bureaus' hydroelectric generating plants Nos. 1 and 2, about forty-five miles north of Los Angeles.

BAKERSFIELD • ST. FRANCIS DAM NEAR NEWHALL

SANTA BARBARA PIRU CASTAIC SAUGUS SAN FERNANDO LOS ANGELES FLOOD TRAVELING IN DIRECTION OF VENTURA FILLMORE

SCORES SWEPT TO DEATH WITHOUT WARNING WHEN FLOOD SMASHES TOWNS

Train Dispatcher Reports Recovery of 63 Bodies to Newhall.

20 OTHERS ARE SIGHTED

River Many Feet Deep as It Boils Through City Streets.

By United Press

NEWHALL, Cal., March 13.—The Southern Pacific dispatcher reported to authorities here today that sixty-three bodies have been recovered in the wake of the Santa Clara River basin flood.

Four bodies were at Piru, four at Fillmore and two at Santa Paula, reports reaching here said.

Captain William Bright, heading a squad of deputy sheriffs reported to headquarters here that his men had sighted twenty bodies between here and Saugus.

They could not be recovered until the waters receded, he said.

Many Men Missing

VENTURA, Cal., March 13.—Only seventy-five of the 175 men in the Southern California Edison Company camp near Piru have been accounted for, reports reaching here from the flooded Santa Clara River camp said today.

The Santa Clara River was turned into a swirling torrent, carrying houses and all manner of debris with it. All roads leading into the stricken section were wiped out and it will be hours before communications can be re-established.

All power was off in Ventura County and business was at a standstill. The Southern California Edison Company had furnished power to Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties through its Saugus substation, which was wiped out.

The region, he said, was in the foothills north of Los Angeles and attracted few winter sojourners. The towns reported swept by the flood are not regarded as resorts, he said, and tourists from here would not likely visit them.

Local railroad passenger agents knew of no one from this city in the towns affected.

HOOSIERS ARE SAFE

No Indianaans Reported in Flood Zone.

No reports that Indianapolis persons were caught in the avalanche of water that swept down the valley, many residents in the poorer section of the city were unable to escape.

Die Without Warning

Only forty of 170 men at the Southern California Edison camp at Castaic had been accounted for, officials said. No warning was received at the camp, and the tent city directly in the path of the torrent was swept away.

Although police sirens gave warning of impending destruction early today as the huge wall of water swept down the valley, many residents in the poorer section of the city were unable to escape.

Thousands of dollars' loss resulted to farmers and fruit growers when the flood destroyed 2,000 acres of orchards.

Citrus and walnut trees were torn up by the roots in the swirling current, which hurled driftwood and trees about.

Flood Is Decreasing

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., March 13.—The Southern Pacific operator at Montalvo, in the Santa Clara river valley, have forced suspension of coastwise transportation between Saugus and Montalvo.

All trains are being held between these points and the Southern Pacific tracks were wiped out between Saugus and Santa Paula.

The water has subsided in that territory and the main tide of the flood is sweeping toward the coast, down the Santa Clara river bed.

IF I WERE GOVERNOR

By United Press

MONTALVO, Cal., March 13.—The flood waters from the broken St. Francis dam, in the Santa Clara river valley, have forced suspension of coastwise transportation between Saugus and Montalvo.

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Twenty-one Killed in Wreck

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Cin-

cinnati has made a bid for the national balloon races, the National

Aeronautic Association announced

today. The races will be held this summer as an eliminating contest for the Gordon Bennett international cup races to be held in Detroit this fall.

AVIATRIX LEAVES ROME

Hops Off for Naples on England to South Africa Flight.

By United Press

ROME, March 13.—Lady Bailey,

flying alone to South Africa from England, arrived here at 2:35 p.m.

today and left for Naples at 3:15.</p