

# Flooded-Out Farmers Cling to Their Hopes With Little Bitterness

Some Expect to Get Soybeans Planted;  
Disaster Has Lost Its Edge Through Years

The Midwest has just gone through its worst flood in history. Its broad, flat acres in the past have produced food for ourselves and for the world. But 1947 is a critical time. The Times and the Scripps-Howard newspapers have sent Staff Writer Earl Richert into the area to survey the flood's aftermath. This is the first of Mr. Richert's articles.

By EARL RICHERT, Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

ELDON, Iowa, July 8.—Clarence Hall, a bulky, gnarled farmer of 65, chewed his unit cigar and eyed the two water marks above the foundation of his large white house. They were reminders of the successive Des Moines river floods which washed millions of dollars out of the pockets of farmers living along its banks.

The two floods swept his 128 acres clean, including 60 acres of corn land which during the last four years produced 100 bushels an acre.

"I went through the depression," he said. "If I could go through that I can certainly go through this."

"And maybe," he said hopefully, "I can get 50 or 100 acres planted in soybeans yet. If they do all right, I ought to make a little money this year."

## Typical Reaction

Mr. Hall's attitude is typical of farmers throughout the Des Moines river valley. Like farmers everywhere, they accept disaster at the hands of the weather with little bitterness.

"What good would it do?" asked Sam Woods, a neighbor and another flood victim.

Most of the farmer whose land was so wet that they could not plant corn in the last week of June hope to recoup to some extent by planting soybeans. Others are taking jobs in town until the next planting season, but still doing their chores at home.

A few tenant farmers are refusing to move back to lowland farms, some because their wives have rebelled at cleaning up muddy floors.

## Old Story to Him

Mr. Hall, like other valley farmers, is accustomed to floods, but none like the two which kept him and his wife away from their farm almost a month. The flood in 1903, he said, was bad, but it came a month earlier and gave the farmers a chance to plant corn after the waters receded.

Mr. Hall has lived on his farm more than 50 years. His father purchased it in 1898 and Mr. Hall bought it in 1911. Mrs. Hall left the farm by motorboat on June 7 and stayed with relatives the rest of the month.

They expect to return their registered Hereford cattle to the farm soon, but will sell their 90 hogs because they do not have enough corn to feed them and there is no fence left on the place that would hold a hog.

## Puts Loss at \$10,000

Mr. Hall estimates the flood cost him at least \$10,000. He lost 150 laying hens and 400 bushels of cribbed corn in addition to his crops, which included 16 acres of alfalfa and 29 acres of oats.

The river did him a favor by depositing on his land several inches of thick black soil it had washed off other farms.

Both Mr. Hall and Mr. Woods

are worried about future farm prices.

"Prices are too high today and we all know it," Mr. Woods said. "We would be willing to take lower prices if other costs would come down, particularly for labor and machinery."

## Borrowed in Depression

"The city folks curse us for high prices. But what they evidently don't realize is that they pay about four times as much as we get for meat. You can't tell me it costs that much to slaughter, process and wholesale the meat."

The depression is a vivid memory to Mr. Hall. During 1932 and 1933, he grew 10,000 bushels of corn and couldn't even pay his taxes. He kept operating by borrowing from an insurance company.

He fears that without government price support those days may return with a drop in the world demand for food, and since this country can produce more than it consumes.

He said acreage control would have to accompany government price support and that he would be willing to cut down acreage to keep up prices.

## Crash Board Urges Higher Flying

WASHINGTON, July 8 (U. P.).—A special presidential air safety investigating board has recommended that commercial airlines double their minimum altitude for night flying and install electronic devices to warn pilots when they are approaching mountains.

Since the investigating board comprises representatives of both the civil aeronautics board and the civil aeronautics administration, the recommendations are expected to become formal regulations without delay.

The investigating board, in its third interim report, proposed that pilots flying on instruments should be required to clear mountainous territory by 2,000 feet. The present minimum altitude is 1,000 feet.

The minimum altitude recommendation and that regarding electronic devices were prompted by a June 13 accident near Leesburg, Va., where a Pennsylvania Central airliner crashed into a mountain, killing all 50 persons aboard.



**RUSTING METAL**—Scrap metal rusts in a weedy lot across the street from 215 Leota st. where two children have been bitten by rats. This is part of the southeast side neighborhood the city health and sanitation departments forgot.



**RECOVERING**—Six-month-old Sharon Kay Dunn recovers from a rat bite she received while laying in her bassinet. She was bitten on the wrist.



**TREATED**—Richard Dunn, 3, was bitten on the lip Sunday night as he lay sleeping. He was treated at City hospital.

## Trash Piles Up, Rats Grow Big on Forgotten Street

Between Southeastern ave. and the Big Four tracks is the neighborhood city hall forgot.

Trash and garbage stand in alleys there for weeks until the residents in desperation pay someone to haul it away. Scrap metal rusts in weedy lots adjacent to frame dwellings.

The rats have grown big down there this season and attack the children. That's where 3-year-old Richard Francis Dunn and his baby sister, Sharon Kay, age 6 weeks, were bitten by rats last Friday and

## Bitten on Hand, Wrist

The baby was bitten on the hand and wrist Friday. The 3-year-old was bitten on the lip and mouth Sunday night. He woke up screaming: "Mommie."

Mr. Dunn took him to City hospital.

Mrs. Dunn said the rats appear to crawl up somewhere through the floor in the kitchen.

"Since the baby was bitten, I've been keeping the door shut to the children's room," she said. "Sunday night, I guess I left it open just a crack. Then we heard Richard scream."

## Some Buying Homes

A number of the residents in the neighborhood are young people like the Duns. Some of them are buying their homes. Employment is steady and by degrees they are trying to improve the neighborhood.

But they're working under a handicap. The streets are broken and rutted. The names of the streets are hidden behind the rust of the street signs.

Directly across Leota st. from the Duns is a junkyard. Scrap has been accumulating there since during the war.

## Garbage Feeters in Sun

In the alley between Leota and Oriental sts., bushel baskets of tin cans have been lined up for weeks, awaiting collection. Garbage feeters in the sun. Children are forbidden to play back there.

"We paid \$5 to have it hauled away a month ago," said Mrs. Georgetown Davis, 219 Leota st. "We call up the city every once in a while," said Curtis Tarter, 1322 Bates st., around the corner. "They don't seem to pick the stuff up even when they come."

It was to the Tarter's house that Mrs. Dunn ran Sunday night when Richard was bitten to use the telephone.

## Standing Several Weeks

Everett Burton, 224 S. Oriental st., said the trash behind his garage has been standing there for several weeks. He said he thought one of the newer residents had mixed trash with garbage. Under city collection rules, garbage men wouldn't touch the piles which contain trash and trash men wouldn't touch them because they contained garbage. Or something like that.

## Man, 40, Breaks Neck: Walks Mile for Aid

GRANBY, Vt., July 8 (U. P.).—Hiram Bowen, 40, hiked a mile back to a lumber camp after he was hit by a falling tree which broke his neck.

"I was knocked out about 10 minutes," he said, "but when I came to I seemed to feel all right."



**TRASH PILES UP**—Trash accumulates in the alley between Leota and Oriental sts. Residents say they have had to pay someone to have it hauled away privately.

## Search Party Hunts Boy, 4½

Missing Since Yesterday  
From Florida Home

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla., July 8

(U. P.).—Fort Lauderdale police and some 500 citizens combined with soldiers from two army air fields today in a pre-dawn search for 4½-year-old Freddie Zloch, missing from his home here since late yesterday.

The "very chunky" blond child was reported missing by his grandmother, Mrs. Brown, late yesterday afternoon. Police said the boy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Zloch Sr., who have a home here a short distance from the Tarpon river, one of the canals draining Lake Okechobee.

## In Swimming Suit

At least 50 soldiers from nearby Boca Raton army air base and Morrison field at West Palm Beach joined the search of Freddie's neighborhood and along the canal running through town.

There were several reports from persons who said they saw the blue-eyed youngster yesterday walking in his swimming suit and accompanied by his dog, police said.

Meanwhile, an unidentified small girl said she had been playing with Freddie "down around a boat" in the canal. When a bloodhound led police to the same boat described by the girl, they immediately began dragging the surrounding water.

## 1-Day Bridegroom Returns Gifts

NEW YORK, July 8 (U. P.).

Joseph Missik carefully repacked his wedding gifts last night for return to the givers and made preparations for the burial this week of his bride of one day.

Mr. Missik and Margaret Heliker of North Bergen, N. J., were married Saturday, held a reception for 100 guests at a North Bergen inn Saturday night and fled in a shower of rice and good wishes for New York and a honeymoon.

In a New York hotel late Saturday night, Mrs. Missik was seized by a raging fever. She died of pneumonia Sunday night.

## Lady's Scream Routs A Prowler, By Gum

CHICAGO, July 8 (U. P.).—Mrs.

Ruth Sturch, 29, was walking home from a visit with friends early today, when a man leaped out of some bushes and hit her on the head.

Mrs. Sturch opened her mouth—wide—and screamed. Her teeth popped out.

She told the police the man stooped over and picked something off the sidewalk and then fled. She couldn't find her teeth.

## COTTON ACREAGE RISES

WASHINGTON, July 8 (U. P.).

—The agriculture department today

estimated that 21,389,000 acres of cotton were under cultivation on July 1, compared with 18,190,000 acres a year ago.

## Congress— House to Pass Tax Bill Today

GOP Seeks to Make  
New Veto Futile

WASHINGTON, July 8 (U. P.).—The Republican income tax reduction bill, making its second trip around the congressional circuit, came up for a vote in the house today.

G. O. P. leaders hoped to pass it by a majority large enough to demonstrate the futility of another presidential veto.

Even Democratic opponents of the measure conceded defeat in the lower chamber. They looked to the senate for support of a veto, if Mr. Truman again should decide on that course of action.

The bill would cut personal income taxes by 30 per cent in the lowest brackets and 10.5 per cent in the highest incomes.

The house upheld the President's veto of the first tax measure by two votes. But several Democrats, who supported Mr. Truman then, announced they would vote in favor of the new bill since the reductions have been advanced six months from the previous July 1 date.

Senate Republicans hope to vote on the bill Saturday.

## Flood Control Policy This Session Doubtful

President Truman's plan for drafting an extensive flood control program for the Midwest won hearty favor in congress.

Leaders of both parties admitted there was a crying need for coordination of plans already made to prevent a recurrence of the recent disastrous floods. But they saw little chance that congress would get around to the President's proposal before adjourning later this month.

## Refugee Immigration Bill to Be Delayed

Senate Republican Whip Kenneth S. Wherry said he saw no possibility of adding to the 1947 legislative program President Truman's request for permission to admit European refugees to the U. S.

Similar expressions came from house leaders. They contended that such controversial legislation should not be pushed through congress in a few weeks.

## Greek-Turkish Program May Get No Funds

The house appropriations committee reportedly plans to approve a foreign aid bill containing no funds for the Greek-Turkish program. A committee member said the group was provoked over the state department's failure to submit an itemized account of expenses for the \$400,000,000 program.

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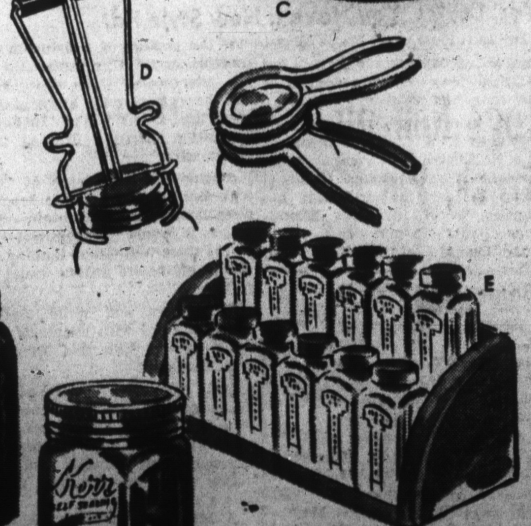
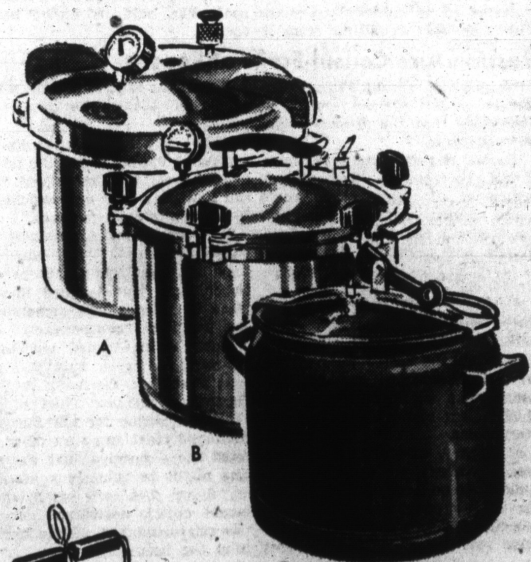
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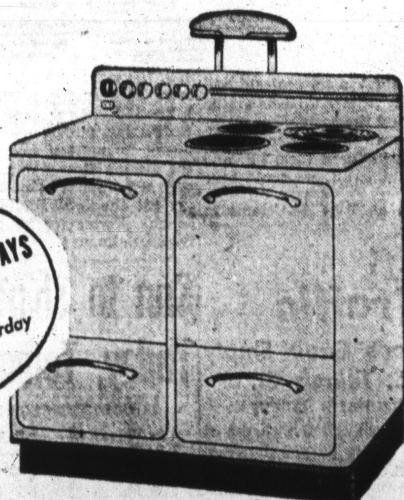
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