



By R. A. R.

It all began early Wednesday.

Sometime in the night I heard the rain. About 4 a.m. I was awake again, listening, listening. The wind was blowing—not howling, not moaning, more like sighing.

There was something eerie. It was dark and I wondered how the world sounded and looked during the second and third day of creation as the winds blew and there was still darkness across the waters.

The weatherman had said there would be a lot of rain Thursday and Friday. O. K. But this seemed ridiculous.

At 4 a.m. I got up, sat at the front window a while and watched through the darkness. Later I tried to read. The milkman—at 5 a.m.—rattled me into reality again. It was still raining.

By 8 a.m. I had learned that some approaches to Mt. Joy were in trouble. I wondered, vaguely, about the sixth chapter of Genesis, for one of the Bulletin's biggest press motors was under water and there was water in the basement. Things were getting worse at 9 a.m. and already the radio was crackling with the shadow of coming disaster.

As the ocean is made of tiny drops of water, so is a mighty flood. First the gutters overflowed, then the curbs, then the sewers and then the streams.

As the storm mounted, the streams turned the creeks to raging torrents and finally the creeks changed the beauty of the Susquehanna into destruction—and death.

There were three distinct phrases of the trauma. 1.—Mount Joy as it suffered the early batterings of downspout, streets, sewers and creek; 2.—The flooding of half of Marietta and the evacuations, and 3.—The cleanup in Marietta.

That's, perhaps, an oversimplification, but there were those three separate parts. Each, of course, was expanded a hundred fold as each individual fought the battle for himself and for his family, neighbors and others in his community.

A few—very few—people were virtually untouched by the disaster. But practically every person in the entire area—in one way or another—was affected. The woman who had no water dampening the inside of her home perhaps worked the hardest helping to sort clothing two days later for those who lost practically everything.

A housebound grandmother who was not touched in any way served extra time as baby sitter so that young parents could give hours and hours of help in very real ways.

There were those who did not dirty their hands sorting clothing or did not donate a single can of food but who willingly opened their pocket-books with generous cash gifts.

The outpouring of substance and service was more, more, more than can be counted and for anyone to try to name even a few of those (Turn to page 16)

THE MOUNT JOY

BULLETIN

Ralph M. Snyder
R. D. 2
Mount Joy, Pa.

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MOUNT JOY, PENNA., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 1972

TEN CENTS

Borough Near Normal After Flood

Flood Information Centers Opened

Effective immediately, the Columbia and Mount Joy Flood Information Centers will be closed. Instead, two new offices will be placed into operation on Wednesday, June 28, 1972, in the following locations where there is a greater immediate need for these centers:

Riverview Elementary School
Route 441
Marietta, Penna. 17547
Telephone 426-1561

Zion Lutheran Church
East High & Hazel Streets
Manheim, Penna. 17545
Telephone 665-5880

Unemployment Compensation claimants who are accus-

tomed to reporting for claims activity at the Susquehanna Fire Company in Columbia will continue to report there on their usual day for claims processing.

The Flood Information Center Offices represent a one-step service operation for persons who have been victims of the recent flood disaster & desire information or some type of service. State & Federal Representatives will be available to assist people having problems involving welfare, housing, health problems building inspections and other problems associated with the flood. The Flood Information Center Offices will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mon-

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COMMUNITY COUNTS ITS BLESSINGS

Mount Joy, in the main, was back to near normal by early this week following one of the most devastating rain storms the area ever has experienced.

On the fringe of the viciousness of Hurricane Agnes, as she passed along the Eastern seaboard, the area was mauled by a torrential downpour which dumped approximately 12 inches of water within a period of about 24 hours.

The storm became a torrent of flood water and great damage was done to local private and public property.

However, as the community mopped up from the deluge, it also counted its blessings.

Almost without exception, damage, locally was to property and not to people. And, in the vast majority of cases the property damage is of a nature which can and will be overcome in relatively short order.

Beginning only hours after the downpour, the mop-up operations began and by weekend virtually were completed as people turned to assisting others who were in far worse circumstances in Marietta.

There was mud and dirt to be cleaned away, tree limbs to be disposed of and minor home repairs to be made.

Because there was no violent or destructively vicious wind, damage was confined to water connected causes. And because Mount Joy generally is not built dangerously close to the main waterways, damage to homes was at a minimum.

However a few did suffer grievous losses.

Homes on Cove road were inundated. The Springs, home of the Jay Gingrich family, was flooded and also damaged approximately \$2,500 by fire.

For a time there were no trains through town because of the high water in the High-spire and Harrisburg area.

Business was slow on Main street except those people serving needs which were flood related. A number of industries were closed—partially as a means of conserving water. Guards at the creek amused themselves by watching the interesting things which came floating down stream—including a rabbit sitting on a piece of lumber.

Travel in and out of Mount Joy was very difficult Thursday. One Mount Joy man who lives just north of Stauffertown went east on the Manheim pike to the interchange, west on the expressway and came across on the Colebrook road and back to Mount Joy on Route 230.

Later in the day the Colebrook road was closed and at least two cars were under water immediately north of the Farm Diner.

By late afternoon, one Lancaster resident who works in Mount Joy went all the way to Elizabethtown on Rte. 230 north on the Hershey Rd. and then back east on Route 233.

By mid-day, water and sewer facilities were under water and Baxter Wells, superintendent, admitted that there was trouble.

Because of the heavy burden on all water drainage lines, sanitary sewers began (Turn to page 6)

Massive Relief Effort Mounted

GROWS TO TORRENT FROM SMALL START

Like the disaster it was seeking to help — it started with a trickle and ended in a flood!

Saturday, Mount Joy Jaycees put signs on a couple of vehicles and set out to collect a few pieces of clothing and whatever else was immediately available for use at the Marietta refugee center, located at the Riverview elementary school.

But, within less than 24

hours the quantity of food, clothing, household items and much other property became an overwhelming torrent of assistance.

Scores and scores of people participated actively in dozens and dozens of ways—all on a voluntary basis.

Mount Joy's borough building became a teaming center of activity and by Sunday afternoon there was a processing system in operation which

handled a tremendous amount of relief material.

A constant stream of cars drew up at the front of the building, where "No Parking" signs provided space, and great quantities of clothing & food were unloaded. Some was stacked onto shopping carts and other boxes, bags and plastic containers were grabbed by many willing hands.

Inside, shoes, clothing, food and other items were quickly separated. Food was divided into various assigned categories.

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Riverview Is Substitute Home

DOORS WIDE OPEN TO SERVE NEED

How does one provide a "home" — even temporarily — for people who have been driven from their homes by raging flood waters?

The answer, of course, is that you cannot.

But, you can try. And under favorable conditions, you can go a long long way and do a wonderful substitute job.

That's the story of Riverview elementary school, where where Marietta flood refugees were housed after being driven from their homes by the Susquehanna river.

Beginning Friday night, when it became apparent that there would be need for substitute homes, the school was thrown open and all facilities were made available.

Under the direction of the American Red Cross the school served as a center of people-to-people help as hundreds of volunteers manned the operation to provide food, clothing and shelter.

The new building was ideal-

ly suited to the needs, including the spacious, modern kitchen, which was taken over by many of the very same people who had handled the food services only a few days before for the school. Augmented by help from Marietta, Mount Joy and other surrounding communities, meals were served, snacks provided and no one went hungry.

The big all-purpose room saw more purposes than during school days.

The stage half of the area was filled with cots—head to head—and feet to feet, including the stage. Scores of other cots lined both sides of corridors.

The other half of the big room was a dining hall, recreation area and general lounge.

Dogs were quartered in the maintenance and mechanical room of the school. School personnel was on hand to operate equipment, to provide the "know how" to use the building, and volunteers turned out for any need.

Drinking water, at a premium, arrived in huge bottles. Food arrived in a steady stream. Clothing began to arrive almost immediately and teenage girls began playing with and caring for youngsters.

People arrived at the build (Turn to page 5)

Rotarians Honor

Henry G. Carpenter

Henry G. Carpenter was honored and new officers of the Mount Joy Rotary club were installed Tuesday noon as the club held its weekly luncheon meeting at Hostetters.

Carpenter, a charter member of the club, its first secretary, its sixth president and its first and only district governor, was honored as four of his friends spoke and he was presented with a plaque. In addition, he was given a Paul Harris Sustaining membership.

Speakers were Rev. W. Lester Koder, John Booth, Joseph Shaeffer and Dr. William Nitrauer.

New officers for the 1972-'73 Rotary year were inducted by retiring President R. F. Hallgren.

They are: Dr. Robert Brackbill, president; Dr. David Schlosser, 1st vice-president; Al Newlin, 2nd vice-president; Dr. Richard Bryson, secretary; Carl Hallgren, asst. secretary; Joseph Shaeffer, treasurer, and Jay Musser, asst. treasurer. Directors inducted include: Arthur Hostetter, Rev. Richard Kohler and Retiring President Hallgren.

During the meeting, Rotarians "passed the hat" for the benefit of the flood refugees and \$200 was contributed.

Water Is Safe

It is safe to drink Mount Joy water.

Official word was released Wednesday morning, June 28. The Borough Authority thanks the industries which closed to help protect the water service.

No Paper Next Week

As has been the custom for many years, there will be no publication of this newspaper during Fourth of July week.

The week will be a vacation time for all members of the staff.

However, the publication will be on regular schedule the next week