

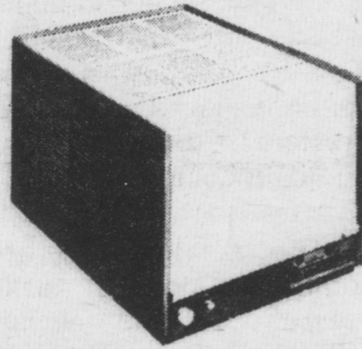
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It's been 3 years since Agnes rolled over us

by Hazel Baker

Fast fading in the memories of the local citizens is the impact of the storm Agnes, now marking its third anniversary since striking vast areas in Pennsylvania. Scars of the flood still remain but most persons have reoccupied or relocated in homes in which they hope are never to be invaded again by flood waters.

It all began Wednesday morning in that ill-fated year of June 1972 when rain began falling on the eastern area of Pennsylvania, especially in the Susquehanna Valley. As the day progressed so did the rainfall. By noon, several inches could be measured.

At nightfall, some warnings of possible floodings were predicted. After the second day of continued deluge, streams and tributaries of the Susquehanna were swollen to bank level. With surface water draining from all directions into cellars, many old timers along the river started to move household items to second floor levels.

As the waters came higher and higher, trains were delayed, phone service was interrupted and with floating debris came rumors of greater catastrophies. The rumors caused greater anxieties among already threatened victims of the flood waters.

By Friday, the waters of

the Susquehanna had leaped their banks and were rising to depths which exceeded any former flood in this century.

Humans are geared to accept reality and as the waters receded the citizens who suffered fewer damages began to hose and scrub in order to right the situation. However, in homes which were hit harder, the government saw fit to inspect each structure prior to its being reinhabited. This caused hardships for victims who had been sheltered by relatives or friends. Jobs were interrupted, which caused additional troubles for those already overburdened by the ravages of "Agnes."

The government provided temporary housing loans at a minimum of interest for those victims who had to re-establish their homes or businesses.

Government funds also helped clear streams and areas neighboring the water-swept paths of debris and litter left in the wake of the disaster.

Victims have recovered from that misfortune of '72" and in three short years have made the necessary changes to erase the traces which accompanies a disaster of this volume. But with the excessive moisture many foundation walls were weakened and structures were condemned until made safe for habitation.

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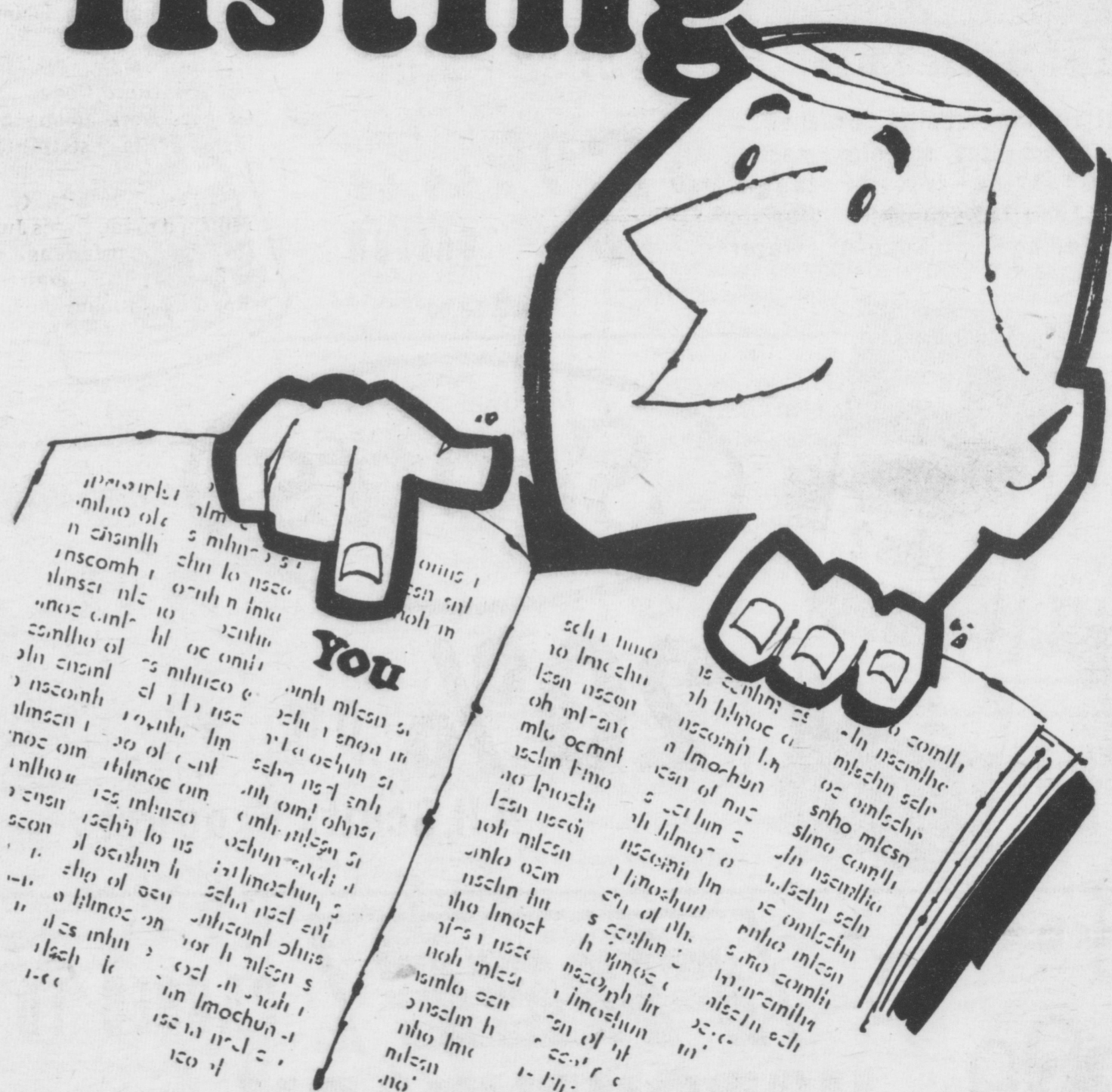
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