

FLOODS

L.J. Delco Fri. Aug. 19 - '55

In the flood news, a dispatch from Pennsylvania states: "The threat of death flows down a one hundred mile length of the Schuylkill river." A threat of - explosive death. Sounds odd - a deluge with explosions. But here's the fantastic thing that happened:-

At Tamaqua, on the Schuylkill, the Atlas Powder Company has a plant. The town - swept by three feet of water. A warehouse - washed out. In it - electric blasting caps. So down the flooded river went - electric blasting ~~caps~~ caps - to the number of ten thousand.

Apparently, they ^{are} of a sort that will float - and, they'll explode. The fear being - that they ~~may~~ ^{may} strike supports ~~on~~ of a bridge. With- a series of explosions. The dynamite caps might blow up - if they hit anything in the river.

So all along the Schuylkill, ^{all the way} down to Philadelphia, the people have been alerted by the police:- "Look out - for those floating blasting caps!" In Philadelphia, fifty thousand

placards posted along the river - giving the ~~xxxxxx~~ warning.

The Schuylkill, in violent flood. And the Delaware is on the rampage - the river expected to rise above the record - breaking flood in Nineteen Three. On two islands in the Delaware, six hundred and fifty boy scouts, marooned - evacuated by ~~shli~~ helicopters.

Havoc in the Pocono section of mountain resorts. Stroudsburg - reporting thirteen lives lost, apparently out of a ~~poss~~ probable Pennsylvania total of twenty nine fatalities.

The Lehigh River, which flows past Allentown, has reached the highest flood level in its history. Twenty-three feet - which is more than seventeen feet above normal.

At Easton, the city water supply cut off.

At Bethlehem, the steel plants flooded to a depth of twenty-five feet.

At Scranton - a state of emergency, tonight. Many homes were swept away. Water supply - cut off.

FLOODS * NEW YORK

Same story in New York - the lower valley of the Hudson. At Port Jervis, one hundred people marooned by the deluge rescued by army helicopters, today. Among them thirty-six boy scouts, trapped by the flood while on an outing.

Helicopters - dropping food and medical supplies to stranded motorists and campers. Firemen using ladders - to reach people marooned in upper stories of their homes. Five hundred families ordered evacuated in Kingston. In Columbia County forty-eight children evacuated from a summer camp. Near Peekskill - Army "ducks" navigating on the flood, taking people out.

At Wassaic, New York Central railroad bridge washed out. On the Harlem Division of the railroad, service cut off north Brewster and Pawling in my own locality where many bridges are out and ten or eleven inches of rain fell.

The menace to life all the greater - because of vacationers and campers. The floods hitting - favourite resort areas. In the Catskills, for example, the ~~Ellenville~~ Ellenville resort section - is nine feet under water.

FLOODS - New York

Philadelphia - a thousand people evacuated from
low lying areas in the city. Major industries - shut down.

FLOODS OTHER STATES

Massachusetts - Governor Herter has declared a state of emergency - in Central and western parts of the state.

Thousands of people - evacuated from towns west of Worcester.

Connecticut: Governor Ribicoff places the damage in the northwestern part of the state alone - at one billion dollars.

Other states, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia - also hit hard by the floods.

The story far and wide is one of towns washed out, buildings, flooded, highways cut off, bridges down, communications out. All - the result of hurricane Diane.

Which blew itself out, sweeping inland - with ~~so~~ torrents of rain.

The tropical storm - dumping a veritable ocean of water, from its murky clouds.

Last night, the American coal ship, Argo-Beam, was navigating on the stormy North Atlantic, due south of Iceland, when fire broke out in the engine room. The ship - in danger of swift, flaming disaster. Captain George Watson gave the order: - "flood the engine room!" Which was done - and the fire was brought under control. But the coal ship was left without power - drifting helpless in a heavy southwestern gale.

Sixty-five miles away, was the Swedish liner Kungsholm. Bound for New York, with ~~seven-hundred-and-eighty~~ passengers. The Kungsholm picked up distress signals - and steamed, immediately, to the rescue.

Result - a great sea spectacle for the passengers aboard the Kungsholm. Swedish sailors taking two lifeboats across to the derelict American vessel. Making their way through heavy seas, waves like mountains.

Aboard the stricken coal ship, ^{twenty} nine sailors, one ^{leaped into} after another - the boiling sea. Picked up - by the lifeboats,

A magnificent job of seamanship - all hands rescued.

The captain of the Argo-Beam and his first mate -
remaining aboard, to save the ship and cargo of coal, from
being claimed for salvage.

Tonight, a U.S. weather ship is on the scene -
and the Kungsholm is on its way to New York with survivors.

GERMANY

Moscow has accepted the terms put forth by West German Chancellor Adenauer - as a condition for his visit to the Soviet capital. The chancellor requested that the talks should include - German reunification. Also - return of German prisoners of war still held in Russia.

Today, Moscow sent a note saying - okay. So Adenauer goes to Moscow.

KOREA

In Korea, today, the Communists agreed on a meeting - set for Sunday. Responding to an American demand - for two U.S. air force flyers, whose trainer plane was shot down by the Reds, over a demilitarized area.

The Communists, themselves, have said nothing about the incident. It isn't even known if the two American flyers are alive, surviving the crash.

Today, the Reds responded - with no information at all. But - okayed the meeting.

RUSSIA HOUSEWIVES

At East Landing, Michigan, the Association of American Agricultural editors, today - sent messages to President Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Bulganin. Messages on the subject of - housewives. Have Russian housewives visit America - and vice versa. Along the line of that exchange of agricultural ~~re~~ delegations - Soviet farm experts visiting in thi^s country. While American farmers are visiting Russia.

(The notion of an exchange of delegations of housewives originated - with Mrs. America. That is, with Mrs. Carl Deitemeyer, of Lincoln, Nebraska. Who, recently, took the prize for home-making and housework. She presented her views at the Michigan State University Centennial of Farm Mechanization. Saying - housewives would promote a ~~kk~~ better understanding of family life.

So now this appeal to President Eisenhower and Premier Bulganin.) Let Russian housewives have a look at the mechanization of the American home. It should open their eyes.

The American housewives - to see how the Russian home gets along without the vacuum cleaner, the electric ~~toaster~~ toaster the automatic oven.

Meanwhile, the Russian farm delegation is in California today, inspecting the citrus groves - an eye opener for them. ~~I'm told that~~ In Russia, ^(orange)~~orange~~ juice is about as expensive as champagne.

ADD RUSSIA HOUSEWIVES

We've been hearing about the hardihood of those Russian farm officials, in braving the heat wave in the U.S.A. today, however, one of them succumbed. At Riverside, California, they were riding in a bus, when Alexander Vanovich Tulupnikov - collapsed from the heat. They took him to a hospital, where the doctors reported - the broiling weather and the strain of the trip, too much for Tulupnikov.

HOAX

?

The Irish raid on a British Army camp in Wales - was a hoax. nothing Irish about it, at all. It was a practical joke - perpetrated by four junior British Army officers. That English sense of humor!

There had been, previously, a real Irish raid by the I.R.A., seizing weapons at a British Army barracks near London. Which - inspired the misplaced sense of humor, in Wales. The four young British officers - staging a phoney raid. Pretending an Irish brogue, to make it ~~realistic~~ realistic.

They got away, and a nationwide manhunt was on, looking for the alleged Irishmen. But now the secret is out. The British Army - apologizing profusely to the police and Scotland Yard.

What the British Army is doing to the malaprop jesters - is not revealed.

COURT MARTIAL

Sergeant James C Gallagher - found guilty. In New York, the court-martial brought in a verdict against the former prisoner of war in Korea -- accused of the murder of fellow American prisoners and of collaborating with the Communists. Sentence - life imprisonment, Which is being appealed to higher military authorities.

BICYCLES

President Eisenhower, today, hiked the tariff on imported bicycles. Ordering - a fifty percent increase.

Recently, sales of bicycles have increased phenomonally in this country. Largely - imports. In Nineteen Forty-nine, six thousand bikes were imported. Last year - nine-hundred-and-sixty-four thousand. Mostly - British. They make a fine brand of bicycle over in Britain, and could under-sell the American market. Sales of American made bicycles - declining.

(There were demands for more tariff protection, and the U S Tariff Commission recommended - that the duty on the most popular type of bicycle be triple^{d.}s. President Eisenhower, however - rejecting the drastic increase of three times. Ordering, instead, a fifty percent increase.

Saying - that foreign imports, like the British, would still be left in an "excellent" position.

MAINE

There's one place in this country where you don't have to pay a tax on an automobile. But that heavenly condition - now comes to an end. Today - the last day.

On Matinicus Island, Maine, the lobster fishermen have always rejected - any taxes on automobiles. Only thirty autos on the island - but they were tax free. So ~~what~~ why the change?

Well, the State Legislature voted - grants of money for highways. Two thousand dollars - awarded to Matinicus Island. But only on condition - that the islanders pay an automobile tax.

They need the money for the "ruds". The island highways - little more than Indian tracks of old. The lobster fishermen get around all right in their jalopies. But they hope to attract some tourists. Who certainly would not be attracted by the condition of the Matinicus Island "ruds".

So now the end of that paradise of untaxed automobiles. Because of a diabolical dilemma - either you pay taxes, or you have the same old "ruds".

FOOTBALL

In the football world, Texas Christian is taking a poll - to forecast the champion in the southwest conference. Which team will come out on top - in the coming inter-collegiate football season. Texas Christian does this every year - conducting a straw vote among the experts.

Well, we've had a lot of public opinion polls. Some - fairly successful. Others - making lamentable failures. The annual straw vote run by Texas Christian - the champion of all, for flat failure and bad guessing.

The southwest conference consists of seven teams. In twenty-two years, the experts have been correct - only twice. Last year, for example, they made Arkansas the favorite. So Arkansas finished sixth in a seven-team league.

Are the experts down that way so inexpert? Or is the southwest conference just plain ^{or} ~~g~~nerary - with upsets an annual epidemic?

GIRLS FOLLOW FOOTBALL

Here's another kind of straw vote, on a very different subject - the girls, and the clothes they wear.

United Press reporter Elizabeth Toomey was interviewing movie actor Tyrone Power. Her topic - what men think about women's clothes. So Tyrone Power propounded a question in the following words:

"Do you know that one item of clothing a man considers most important to a woman - when he is watching her down the street?"

Ladies, what's your guess? Probably, you'll be wrong. Tyrone Power said that, recently, in a group of men - the question came up. So they held a straw vote among themselves - taking a poll.

"We all wrote our choice down on slips of paper," he related, "and we all wrote the same thing." The verdict - unanimous. The answer - shoes.

When they see a girl walking down the street, they
notice attractive shoes. Not any particular style - just
attractive.

~~Cutie tripping along on well shod teatsies.~~