

The Benkelman Post

and News-Chronicle

Forty-Second Year.

C. L. Kettler, Publisher.

Benkelman, Dundy County, Nebraska, June 7, 1935.

Subscription Price \$2 Per Year.

Number 6.

Death Rides Flood Waters

12 Known Dead and 7 Still Missing

Raging Torrents Sweep Down Without Warning; Hundreds Trapped While They Sleep

Death List Mounts to 168 in Valley With Many Still Unaccounted For

Know Dead in Local Area

James Robbin Pettit, 52.
Mamie Laumann Pettit, 44.
Edward Walter Pettit, 18.
Albert Pettit, 13.
James Pettit, 11.
LaVeta Alice Pettit, 9.
Lee Pettit, 6.
Adolph Thomas Pettit, 4.
Lois Burke, 4.
Art Duvall, 61.
Mrs. Harvey Barnhart, 45.
Mrs. Blanche Harding, Hale, Col., 45.
Missing and almost certainly lost:
O. A. Davis, 60.
Johanna Osborne, 74.
E. D. Faylor, 48.
Mrs. B. D. Faylor, 45.
Bud Faylor, 19.
Marina Faylor, 15.
Pete Courtwright, 15.

Heavy rains, downpours and cloud-bursts last Thursday night and Friday morning united in bringing about the greatest flood in all Republican valley history and with it the destruction of life and property on a scale never before equaled in Southwestern Nebraska.

Estimates of possible loss of life in Dundy county alone will reach fifteen and possibly twenty persons. It is even more difficult to estimate the destruction to lands and live stock that the floods caused. Amidst all of the uncertainty and confusion, one thing is sure and that is that Nebraska has never seen anything that even approached it before.

The thing that brought about the loss of life and destruction of live stock to Dundy county was the suddenness of the flood and the extent to which it was unexpected. Thursday was an almost perfect day and the Republican valley landscape had never been more beautiful as peaceful meadows grazed over its luxuriant, grassy heads. As the evening shades began to gather, dark clouds assembled in all directions and by eight o'clock the skies were overcast with a black denseness that the eye could not penetrate for a distance of even inches. Shortly after that a heavy rain began falling. Large hail stones were received in considerable numbers but within themselves did little damage. By ten o'clock torrents of water were flowing in from all the hillsides approaching town and the drainage system was taxed to its full capacity to handle it but it was kept in tow and little real damage resulted in Benkelman. By ten o'clock flood waters were crossing the highway from the Mag-nani filling station building to the Joe Krug farm dwelling at a depth of from 18 inches to two feet. The waters were moving swiftly and it was not long before all traffic was stopped in that direction. Despite the fact that the shower had apparently passed and everything was well in tact, there seemed to be a sort of premonition among many Benkelman people that the end was not yet for many of them continued to stay up and cars were milling around all night. The approach of the flood became apparent at near eleven o'clock when Burlington passenger train No. 6 limped in at a snail's speed behind a hand car carrying warning lights. The train took a siding and still remains here. About one o'clock distant roaring of the flood's approach became apparent and night watchman H. K. Martin called up a number of people who had stock in the lowlands, giving them warning. At two o'clock the head waters of the raging torrents reached Benkelman and by four o'clock the bottoms were covered. The water con-

tinued to rise gradually from that time until it almost reached the railroad tracks at the depot and extended across the North Fork, South Fork and Big Timber valleys, almost to the J. T. O'Brien farm house nearly five miles distant. It was a vast sea of water and it raged and tore and leaped and bounded as debris, fences, telephone poles, channels and uprooted trees seemed to vie with each other in adding terror and desolation to the vast panorama of dirty, yellow water which seemed to have a stronger resemblance to a sort of yellow fluid than it had to water. Panic stricken people watched from the higher ground as the tide weaved and leaped. Thousands of objects were apparent across the broad expanse of waves. Some of them looked like people on roofs, bridges and even on rafts and no doubt some of them were. Mr. and Mrs. Pringle at Parks were sure they saw three people going down the North Fork on a roof of a building and then as they watched, it struck a tree or a deep current and capsized. Later the craft was seen but no one was riding it. There were dozens of cases like that.

At noon the flood waters began to recede and hope was felt that the worst was past, but in less than an hour, the second crest was upon us and the water rose to a new high. And still new territory was engulfed and with it new hazards created. By four o'clock the waters again began to recede and continued until on Saturday morning it was possible to walk to the bridges on the North Fork south of Benkelman where volunteers began their laborious work of stretching a cable from the bank to what remained of the bridge in order to make it possible to tow a boat across the channel and bring about the safe rescue of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Higley, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Woods and her daughter and Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Adkinson and daughter who had been marooned in the Woods, Higley and Campbell farm dwellings between the two rivers during all of the flood period. Searchers were also then conveyed across and dozens of volunteers began the search for lost bodies that has continued ever since, although their success has been greatly handicapped by hundreds of tons of debris, washed holes from which trees were uprooted, quick sands and a dozen other deterring influences.

While the floods were raging, rumors were being circulated in unending numbers, telling of the breaking of dams, new deaths reported, other houses having collapsed, of tragedies and losses in Parks, Max, Stratton and other points in the flood area. It was the tenest 48-hour period that the county ever lived thru. Every source of communication was cut off. Hundreds and hundreds of people lined up on the highland south of the rivers were watching every move on the part of the crowds scattered along the Benkelman side and wondered what was happening, the extent of the loss of life and who was involved whereas on this side the same thoughts were entertained for those on the other side.

At near four o'clock Saturday afternoon Henry Admire, Dewey Gerdes, Jim Pettit and others left the south side to swim the South Fork. It was a hazardous undertaking but they were successful. They came to the North Fork bridge and crossed over on the boat and this was the first word brought from the South side. They said that at two o'clock Friday morning Manila Merklin had watched a light in her mother's house on the

(Continued on page 4.)

GOV. COCHRAN CALLS MEETING FOR MCCOOK

Governor Roy L. Cochran has sent notice to flood afflicted counties that a meeting will be held at McCook Thursday to consider a rehabilitation program and representatives from Dundy county will be in attendance at this meeting to present our needs. The federal government has released one hundred thousand dollars to Governor Cochran to be expended as he sees fit to meet the needs and it is apparent that the plan is to rush the reconstruction work as rapidly as possible.

Peter Durkin came out from Blair last week end to spend a few days visiting his many friends here and at Wauneta. Mr. Durkin is now living at the Crowell home for the aged at Blair and says that he is beginning to like it better there but is sure he would enjoy it more if it were located closer to home.

PARKS HARDEST HIT TOWN IN DUNDY COUNTY FLOOD AREA. BABY BURKE IS FLOOD VICTIM

Flood Waters Covered Town Almost Before Any One Realized it and Heroic Measures Alone Saved Many Lives. False Report of Rock Crook Dam Break.

MANY HOMES SWEEPED FROM THEIR FOUNDATIONS

With night watchman Harry Martin on the beat all night Thursday and various persons remaining up until late, the coming of the flood was not as great a surprise to Benkelman folks as it was to Parks which suffered the loss of one life and the greatest actual property damage of any town in the county. But had it not been for the presence of mind of Merle Standish and his men, the death loss might have mounted into dozens of lives. Awakened by the roar of the approaching flood waters at near two o'clock Friday morning, Mr. Standish aroused the family and all of the ranch help. He sent the men on horse back to cut pasture fences and then came to Parks. He loaded his family in a wagon and drove to the lake where he got a boat and then headed for Parks, awakening many from their slumbers and organized a rescue program. Sixteen men—eight at each end of the boat—wading in water almost shoulder deep, fought their way from house to house, rescuing family after family. It was a gigantic struggle between man and elements as they fought to retain control of the boat while the waves plunged hither and thither, trying every fiber of their endurance in retaining its human cargo. This rescue work was continued until every citizen, save the four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Burke had been rescued. When the work was finished, and even before, houses began to move from their foundations down stream. It is doubtful if any town in the flood area had graver possibilities for almost complete extinction of human life than did Parks and few towns suffered smaller casualties. But it was a gigantic test of both human endurance and human courage and Parks manhood qualified one hundred per cent. Although the town was practically homeless Friday night, the fine spirit of courage and self reliance that has characterized the lives of the early pioneer, parents and relatives of many of these same people, lived again and although they had no place to lay their heads that night, few showed rade to their tributaries and the en-signs of weakening or being afraid of the future or what it had to offer from Colorado to Kansas City.

Trucks to Carry Mail Here Soon

Service Will Be Reestablished Thursday Night or Friday Morning at Latest

Mail service in Benkelman will probably be reestablished Thursday night or Friday morning. The Burlington is arranging to truck the mail in and out until the tracks have been repaired so that regular train service can be reestablished. The trucks will haul it to the depot where it will be turned over to the postoffice thru regular channels. Just what the truck schedule will be has not yet been announced but it is expected that mail will be brought in and taken out at least twice a day.

There has been practically no mail service at all in Benkelman since last Thursday. An army plane from Omaha piloted by Lieutenant Strunk flew from North Platte Tuesday and Wednesday and brought a few letters and took out whatever outgoing first-class mail as was available but this service has given away to the truck system.

The first Burlington bus since Thursday arrived Tuesday, following a routing zig zagging between here and Cheyenne and then to Denver. We understand that the Burlington will operate two buses daily as soon as road conditions are more favorable.

TRAPPED IN ATTIC OF HOUSE FAMILY OF EIGHT DROWN AS BUILDING SINKS INTO HOLE

Local Men Had Discovered Their Plight Friday Morning and Were Almost Ready to Attempt Rescue When Flood's Second Crest Hit.

FUNERAL HELD MONDAY AT THE LYRIC BUILDING

When all reports are compiled and the real facts known, we believe that the Benkelman community will have suffered a greater death total than any section in the entire flood area and one of the saddest and most pitiful of all will be the tragedy of the passing of Mr. and Mrs. James Robbin Pettit and their six children who were trapped in the attic of a small house on the river bottom on the Caster farm and who went to their death, the eight as one, without the least shadow of a chance to save their lives. And there was heroism there too, and plenty of it, because Mr. Pettit and his eldest son Edward, 18 years of age, could no doubt had a good chance to leave the family and perhaps get to high land before the flood reached its crest. When Heinie Frenzen and Arthur Shaver swam out to their little home, Mr. Pettit said he didn't want to leave his family—"that they were so badly scared and afraid." He said they had tried to get out when the water was first discovered around their house but that the waves were so high that he feared that most of the younger children at least would drown. He said that they had been in the attic all night and that it was only three feet high and that they were badly cramped and were very uncomfortable. The fact that they were both wet and hungry added greatly to their discomfort.

Surveying the situation, Shaver and Frenzen realized that it was impossible for them to effect a rescue as it was only thru holding hands and using their every physical resource that they were able to get out to the house. They decided to go to town or seek help from whatever source possible. When they reached high ground again, about twelve men had gathered but there was nothing in the way of equipment with which to do anything. Rescue plans were under discussion when a three-foot raise in the crest of the flood struck the house and it appeared to either collapse or disappear. This happened no longer than fifteen minutes after they had left the house.

A rescue squad had previously been organized in town and a raft and a rescue devise of oil barrels had been formulated and cable and rope had been secured and loaded into a truck and near thirty men who are rated as

good swimmers assembled but the flood's progress had been too rapid and the relief crew arrived on the scene about fifteen minutes too late.

The building had completely disappeared from view in a hole that the water washed near it and it was not known until the next morning what had really become of it. At dawn the next morning Frank Walsh organized a crew that removed the bodies. They were brought to town and placed in the Lyric theatre building just as the seven o'clock whistle blew.

Heinie Frenzen, Arthur Shaver and Joe Owens started to Parks at near five o'clock Friday morning upon receipt of news that the town was in distress. At the Pringle ranch they learned that the road was out. Joe walked on into Parks and Heinie and Art remained at the Pringle ranch where they were told of the possibility of the Pettit family being marooned. Mr. Pringle had sent his men down to the house earlier in the morning to find out if they were there. The water was rising rapidly and they did not quite get to the house. They shouted several times and not being able to get a response, concluded that the family had vacated before the flood waters reached them. The same theory was held at the Caster ranch. But after getting to the house and talking to the family Frenzen and Shaver found that because of the fact that they were lodged in the attic, it was impossible to hear or be heard at any distance.

Funeral services were held at the Lyric building by Rev. Frank Woodward Monday afternoon, at the conclusion of which the eight caskets were all loaded into J. M. DeWester's large truck and taken to the Benkelman cemetery for burial.

It was one of those pitiful, sorrowful occasions that challenges the power of words to describe.

The James Robbin Pettit family were good people, they lived unpretentious but useful lives. Both Mr. and Mrs. Pettit were reared here and their children were born here. A large family in the midst of the country's greatest depression had tried their very souls but the same courage sustained them then as it did in the last tragic minutes of their lives when the father said, "I can not leave my family. They are so afraid."

RED CROSS SWINGS INTO ACTION IN REPUBLICAN FLOOD CRISIS

Local Office Set-Up In Court House. Work Under Direction of Representative

The local Red Cross, Womans Club, church organizations and various individuals opened a dining room in the basement of the U. P. church Saturday morning and meals were served to flood relief workers and members of afflicted families and transients until Wednesday night when Red Cross relief was established in the homes.

Miss Elizabeth Reynolds, working out of the St. Louis office, arrived here Monday and opened an office in the county court house. She will work under the direction of Albert Evans, disaster director who is temporarily established at McCook. Miss Reynolds will devote her efforts within the next few days to emergency work and this will be followed by rehabilitation work which will cover emergency financing of homes in the afflicted district so far as it applies to furniture and other immediate needs in reestablishing homes. The need for action at Parks

is great and this will probably be the point where most of her attention will be directed during the rest of the week.

According to information given her at this time, there are 55 damaged homes in the Dundy county flood area and ten homes were totally destroyed. During the absence of Rev. J. C. Foster in California, D. L. Ough will serve as chairman. Victor Westermarck is secretary and the executive committee consists of Leon L. Hines, D. E. Gallatin, A. W. Woodworth, Mrs. E. F. Ham and Mrs. J. R. Finney.

CATTLE OWNERS NOTICE

For your own protection, persons wishing to do any branding at this time, if you will call Sheriff's office we will inspect cattle to be branded and give an owner's certificate.—A. W. Woodworth, Sheriff.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank the people who have assisted us in our distress.—Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Ferguson.

Little Post Want-Ads Bring Results.

CHILD IS LOST DESPITE THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF FATHER

Four-Year Old Lois Burke Is Lost As Flood Waters Cut Off Family's Retreat

One of the crushing blows that the heartless flood visited upon the Parks section was the death of little Lois Burke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Burke who resided in a dwelling close to the creek near the Horn filling station.

OBITUARY OF THE J. R. PETTIT FLOOD VICTIMS

James Robbin Pettit, son of Henry and Jennie Pettit, was born at Blair, Nebraska, February 27, 1883, and lived there until 1889 when the family moved to Cheyenne county, Kansas.

Mamie Laumann, daughter of Albert W. and Mary Jane Laumann, was born in Chicago, Illinois, on February 16, 1891. When still an infant she moved with her parents to Dundys county, Nebraska.

James Robbin Pettit and Mamie Laumann were united in marriage in Dundys county, Nebraska, in 1907, and made their home in Cheyenne county Kansas. To this union ten children were born.

Departing this life with their parents were, Edward Walter, age 13 years; Albert, age 13 years; James, age 11 years; LaVeta Alice, age 9 years; Lee, age 6 years and Adolph Thomas, age 4 years.

They leave to mourn their loss Mary McClain, Henry Pettit and Charles Pettit, the three remaining children; Jennie Pettit, mother of James Robbin Pettit; Albert Laumann, father of Mamie Pettit; Harry Pettit, Bertha Penn, John Pettit, Caroline Pettit, William Laumann, Albert Laumann, Charley Laumann, Adolph Laumann, Bernard Laumann and Alice Ballard and many other relatives and friends.

Ross D. Drullner came out from Lincoln the first of the week to learn more about the flood as all communications were cut off there and it was impossible to get many details. Ross is attending Wesleyan university.

Epidemic Sweeps Country



MIKE ALLEN WILL NEVER FORGET SOUTH FORK FLOOD EXPERIENCE

Stay On Roof-top During the Flood Of The South Fork Made Lasting Impression

Mike Allen accumulated a lot of memorable experiences during the flood Thursday night and Friday while on his farm on the South Fork east of the Shurtleff-Jones ranch. Mike had retired early and was headed for a good night's rest when his horse stuck his head in the window and whinnied. Mike couldn't think what the horse had in mind for a minute but when he heard him splashing as he walked thru the yard he didn't stay in the house long thinking about it.

and was on top of the roof and ready to dive off if it made another move. What he saw in the next few minutes made him think twice about swimming to shore. Huge trees floated by the house and several strong cattle came down the stream fighting the current but without much success.

TWO MEN ESCAPE BUT LAD IS DROWNED IN SOUTH FORK FURY

OHIO RIVER BOATSMAN COULDN'T MAKE GRADE

One of the amusing incidents connected with the rescue of the south side folks at the bridge approach Saturday was when one of the passengers from the marooned train came down to the shore of the river where E. D. Taylor, W. F. Fallert, the Follett boys and others were attempting to get a cable over to the bridge and explained that he was from Cincinnati, Ohio, and had lived on the Ohio river all his life and knew the why and wherefore of putting cables across really big streams.

Peter Courtright Is Missing After South Fork Destroys Kansas Line Gas Station

At the Kansas filling station on the St. Francis road, Chris Courtright and Eli Courtright, brother of Chris Courtright, met a similar fate in a shack close by. All of the men were asleep. Eli was the first to discover the flood condition but had scarcely gotten dressed before the station building left its foundation and then collapsed. Eli waded, swam and plunged for some distance before he was caught in a current and after a terrific effort was carried near enough to the base of the hills that he could walk.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hoffman and little son have arrived here and expect to spend at least a part of their summer vacation in Benkelman.

Mr. and Mrs. Merle Howard drove down from Fort Morgan Tuesday night to learn the extent of loss of life and damage resulting generally from the flood. The Fort Morgan section is just beginning to come out of its flood experience. Much damage was done there but the death list was not so great, three having been drowned.

AMATEUR STATIONS RENDERED FREE BROADCASTING SERVICE

Stations At Waaneta and Enders Served As Area's Communication Links

Amateur radio stations at Enders and Waaneta were the only source of outgoing and incoming communications for two days following the flood. Clinton Darnell, operator and owner of the Enders station visited Benkelman daily and brought reports from other afflicted sections and took message to radiocast. Clinton's station brought the first definite word to the Denver officials of the whereabouts of passenger train No. 6 marooned here.

THREE RESCUED WITH A TEAM AND WAGON

Mr. and Mrs. John Peterson and Mrs. Mary Rogers were at the Rogers farm Thursday night and when Mr. Peterson arose in the morning, he discovered the house completely surrounded by water. A few minutes later it was necessary to close all the doors and as the forenoon progressed, the rise continued until water was covering the floor to a depth of several inches.

his eye. He didn't suffer a great deal with it for several days but the last few days it has brought him a great deal of pain. Thelma Gummere, Genevieve Ough and Vada Hanson accompanied him in the Andrew Grimmeiss car. Vada expects to be examined at the hospital in regard to her recent operation before returning home.

AL MATHIS SAVED IN TREE TOP AT HIS RVER ISLAND HOME

Benkelman Friends Feared For His Life But Lofty Perch Held Safely

Al Mathis, who lives on the island north of the Fred Walker farm east of town, saved his life from the raging waters by perching in a tree for two nights and a day. Mathis has been living on the large island for several months and when the waters began raising the people of Benkelman feared for his life. The island is below the South Fork inlet and was almost in the center of the torrential river.

VALLEY PASTURES WILL NOW NEED RESEEDING

Since the pastures along the Republican valley have been practically ruined by heavy deposits of silt from the recent flood, farmers are wondering what to do to get them back to grass. Probably the native prairie grasses would come back in time but that would take a period of years.

In answer to many inquiries Agricultural Agent Noyes is suggesting a pasture seed mixture for the reseeding problem which is recommended by the College of Agricultural agronomists. This mixture consists of 5 pounds of Bromegrass, 4 pounds of Perennial ryegrass, 4 pounds of Orchard grass, and 5 pounds of Sweet Clover. This mixture may be seeded at once although many farmers will prefer to wait until fall.

At present prices the mixture listed above should cost around three or four dollars per acre. The seeds listed may be obtained from most of the leading seed houses.

CARD OF THANKS

We want to thank the good people for all they did for us following the tragic death of our beloved parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Robbin Pettit and our brothers, sisters and relatives lost in the flood waters. We don't know how to thank you because we don't know what would have happened had it not been for your kindness.—Henry and Charlie Pettit and Mrs. Mary McClane and other relatives.

share of his life and has been in a large number of floods. "But," he remarked, "this was the fastest, dirtiest dam river I've ever seen."

BODY OF COLORADO WOMAN RECOVERED HERE ON SUNDAY

Body of Hale, Colo. Woman Was Found On The South Fork By Local Searchers

The body of a woman was found on the sand near the K. W. McDonald farm by a searching party comprising Willard McDonald, Lyle Carlin and George Follett Sunday afternoon. Her body was practically nude. The boys moved her to the McDonald ranch house, two of them remaining while the third went for help. A team and wagon was secured and the body brought to the North Fork bridge where it was taken across in the boat. It was then carried to town and turned over to Miss McEvoy for embalming.

DUVALLS' DOGS HAD NO PART IN THE RECOVERY

The recovery of the body of Art Duvall brings to light another secret the rampant Republican hides in the annals of its destructive career. But the solving of the Duvall fate has thrown no light on the possible fate of his companion, Ora Davis. According to Al Mathis both Duvall and Davis were on the North Fork bridge as it passed by the island upon which he perched in a tree. When the body was found about a mile and a half west of Max by Glen Stute, Carl Selby, Albert Barker and August Gunther, it was in the north channel of the river and the North Fork bridge was on the south on the higher ground but not far away. This gave the searchers faith that the Davis body could be found in the territory near but a much larger group of men returned to the spot and searched it in vain. Contrary to previous rumors there were no dogs nor any other thing that might have suggested that he might have been there. Duvall's watch was stopped at three minutes until four o'clock. A large number of the dogs belonging to Art Duvall were found by a searching party between Benkelman and Max. They were tied to a fence and apparently all perished early in the flood. This led friends to believe that Duvall and Davis were confronted with the proposition of trying to save their own lives at a time when they doubted their ability to reach even the bridge. Otherwise "Dog Shorty" would have surely untied his dogs before leaving.

Post Want-Ads Bring Quick Results.

MEN SPEND NIGHT AND DAY ON ROOF TOP DURING FLOOD

South Fork Floods Herring Home and Drives Occupants To Refuge on Roof

Tom Herring and Marion Hudson had a thrilling experience when the flood waters hit the Tom Herring house in the Herring grove on the South Fork about six miles southwest of Benkelman. The little flood which took place earlier in the week left its mark on the valley and made the Herring home a little disagreeable because of the debris which filled in the river bottom and had begun to leave an undesirable odor. The river was considered a little dangerous anyway and Mrs. Herring stayed up at the old Herring stone house and Marion and Tom were sort of batching at the lower house in the trees. The wind and the rain made it very disagreeable Thursday evening and hardly conducive to good sleep so the two men were very reluctant about retiring. Late at night a wall of water high enough to completely cover the windows hit the house. The men held the door of the room they were in for a short while and when they realized that the

great pressure of the water was too strong to resist, they made a dash for the attic—grabbing a lantern and a sack of flour and some tobacco. Almost at the instant they made their way to the attic the water burst thru door and window and the whole house was filled with water. A hole was cut in the roof immediately and preparations were made for a hurried exit if the occasion demanded it. The water remained at the top of the window for several hours and at last went down slowly. When the next raise came it went over the window mark and the boys began to wonder what was planned to be next on the program. All the buildings on the farm had taken a hurried ride to the river channels and were soon out of sight. Marion and Tom stayed on top of the house all day Friday and Friday night and were rescued on horses by Ray Magmani and Clarence Pursley Saturday afternoon. After the water had gone down the channel of the river had changed to nearly the north side of the Herring grove of trees. A great number of trees were destroyed and the Herring house today stands with mud up to the door knobs, inside and out.

DRIVE HUNDREDS OF MILES TO REACH FAMILY ON SOUTH FORK

Peter O'Brien Family Make Long Drive Over Pastures To Reach Home on River

Mr. and Mrs. Peter O'Brien and the three older boys went to Imperial last Thursday to spend Memorial day, returning to Benkelman Friday morning in using such precautions as were possible to the end of safety. It was a terrific strain on both the mental and physical resources of the entire family, but was only a sample of the tragic tenseness that grappled with hundreds of people during the flood's progress. Several families are still groping in the shadows of grueling uncertainty as the hunt continues for missing bodies.

left Benkelman before noon Friday and reached home at about nine o'clock Sunday morning. They found that the water had surrounded the place but that the lives of the children had not been endangered. Neighbors had taken a kindly interest in their welfare and Miss Mary, who is past 18 years of age, had exercised splendid judgment in using such precautions as were possible to the end of safety. It was a terrific strain on both the mental and physical resources of the entire family, but was only a sample of the tragic tenseness that grappled with hundreds of people during the flood's progress. Several families are still groping in the shadows of grueling uncertainty as the hunt continues for missing bodies.

A family living in a wagon in South Benkelman, sought refuge in the Magmani house out near the Carlin property with another family who had but recently moved into it. As the water arose, the men waded and swam for help. Nine men, holding to a long rope, went to the rescue and helped the women out and carried the children. One baby was only three weeks old.

