

EXTRA!

THE McCOOK DAILY GAZETTE

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McCOOK, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY MAY 31, 1935

# Whole Area Is Stricken

Efforts to rescue 10 men atop the power plant were started at 4:30. Rescuers hoped to get them away over power lines with ropes.

*Paralyzed communications made it impossible to check the damage inflicted upon the Republican valley in the worst flood of the region's history. Calls swamped the phone office.*

*When the Republican's crest hit at 2:35 p. m. a great many houses and farm buildings were torn loose and floated away.*

*Telephone lines were out of service to Trenton and Stratton, from whence early reports of drownings and great livestock and property damage were received. The Chas. Miller, jr., house south of Perry was said swept away. Fate of occupants unknown.*

*The report that Mr. and Mrs. Owen Murtha, sr., parents of a McCook man, were drowned when their home floated away from Trenton could not be verified.*

*Communication beyond Culbertson went out before noon.*

A rescue party headed by Chief of Police Wesley Dutcher was organized for them, and went to Perry. Some may be unable to get home.

McCook will be dark tonight and faces several days of darkness.

It could not be said until the water receded when service could be resumed. It may be several days.

J. R. Jaquet and several of his men were marooned at the plant.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Middleton live directly south of the city. They and Ray Grant and Marion Watkins started out in a wagon through the flood a few minutes before the Middleton and Watkins home were washed away.

A rescue of the Middletons was made by boat by Joe Horacek and Cliff Madron. Watkins and Grant swam the horses to safety. Two others left behind became entangled in wire and drowned.

Dr. E. T. Boulware crossed the river by boat to deliver a baby girl to Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Rippen. He could not get back. He was safe.

Stratton and Trenton were hard hit. The full extent of the damage could not be checked. The lower sections of both towns were evacuated. Stratton's water system was put out of commission and its light plant was threatened.

The crest of the flood passed Culbertson about 2 o'clock. When a wall of water six feet high rolled down the valley many Culbertson homes were flooded, some floating away.

Pitch black clouds over the west added panic as wild fear of a tornado or another cloudburst spread over the region.

People must "sit tight" during the emergency created by the light plant failure, restricted water supply and crippled communications.

In the Stockville area, the water was the highest in history, old timers reported. The dam at the Crete Milling company in Curtis had water running over it early this morning and was expected momentarily to go out. Bridges on highway South 23 were out in all directions from Curtis and Stockville.

Telephone lines to Maywood, Moorefield, Cambridge and many rural lines were out from Stockville, making a thorough check of danger and damage impossible.

War Vets Notified to meet Legion hall at 8 o'clock to stand by for first aid.

up on the waves of  
valley, snow water, but at 3 - it was 8 feet  
up on the walls & houses &c that were in  
the clear it soon were being swept  
away, one after another - I saw a nice  
big red barn about 40 x 60 rolling along  
& riding fine. It was almost in an eddy to  
turn to the house - hit a tree - turned over  
& smashed. Six head of cattle came swimming  
down headed for the shore near the former  
plant & a big batch of drift wood turned  
into them & the whole bunch went on  
down & down. As I write this, 6:30 P in the  
sky is a dull ugly grey. some wind is blowing  
& an oily dust is again falling. One can smell the  
oil if out doors.

From the reports we get here it is bad  
all the way from Denver on. so the only  
thing I can do is set tight & be sure I can  
go places when I start. Too dark to write more  
now. Some times lamps & candles are very much  
appreciated. Well, I'm going down stairs & visit with  
other snarooned fuddles. "By the light of the  
flash lights & a few candles." There to snaroon  
6/1/35

a beautiful June day - overhead - Can't say so much  
much for midfoot altho there is no mud on the roads  
oc. Fields are soaked & where they are not  
washed, look splendid. at 9 a in an A.P  
Plane came in bringing messages from  
the government & some Red Cross officials