

Federal Assistance Promised County; Damage in Florida Nears Billion Mark

Donna Dwindles To Rain Storm In New England

New York Whipped By Winds With Some Flooding

BOSTON, Sept. 12 (AP) — Hurricane Donna, born in the Caribbean sea, blustered ashore in New England tonight and was dwindling to a rain storm after smashing the mid-Atlantic coast with relentless savagery.

Considerably subdued after spreading death and destruction along the coast, Donna moved through northern New England on a northeasterly course with maximum winds of 75 m.p.h.

Donna came ashore near Bridgeport, Conn., and sprawled out on a 120-mile front extending from Connecticut to New Hampshire. The Blue Hills Observatory near Boston reported gusts up to 130 m.p.h. and Block Island, R. I., had gusts to 123 m.p.h.

Within six hours after heading inland, Donna's power was diminished sharply and damage and destruction in New England was termed relatively small.

20 Dead in U.S.

Killed by the storm were 135 persons, 20 of them in the United States.

Weather experts, in marking its prior passage from Virginia to New York, called Donna one of the most dangerous hurricanes ever to strike that area.

But a well-in-advance alert to its shrieking winds and surging 10-foot tides kept damage and loss of life to a surprisingly low level.

States of emergency had been declared for Rhode Island and Massachusetts in advance of the storm. But dangerous flooding failed to materialize as peak tides subsided before the full brunt of the hurricane was felt.

New York Flooded

In New York City, more than 2,000 pupils were successfully evacuated from 11 public schools surrounded by flooded streets.

Nearly 300 additional students were marooned without food or electricity in two other schools, one of them an island in four feet of water. But the youngsters were rescued well before night-fall.

The hurricane blustered along at a brisk forward rate, moving at about 40 m.p.h. up the coast.

As the hurricane eased its grip on New York in late afternoon, weather bureau Chief Ernest J. Christie announced:

"This will go down in history as one of the biggest hurricanes that ever hit New York and the metropolitan area. This is the highest I have ever seen the tide here."

Up to eight inches of rain poured down from dirty, gray skies. It was driven almost laterally by hurricane winds in excess of 80 m.p.h. — outriders of the 130 m.p.h. force of the big storm.

Estimates of the damage inflicted from end to end of Florida rose to nearly a billion dollars, making it the most destructive storm ever to hit that state. But as a killer it fell short of other great hurricanes.

The fringe of the storm hit (Continued on Page 5-A)

Negro Wants Name Off of Relief List

At the end of a long day of hearing requests for emergency aid and processing the applications of those who were left destitute by the hurricane, or said they were, Red Cross workers at the Civic Center yesterday got around to a Negro man who had been waiting patiently for his turn.

"I want you to take my name off the list for help," he said. "My wife came here without my knowing it and we don't need this help. I've been working steady for 14 months without missing a day. I want you to take our names off and give the help to those who really need it."

His name was not made public.

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Cape Coral Home Sold Despite Donna

A couple from Akron, Ohio, who had bought a lot in Cape Coral and were on their way here to see their property when the hurricane hit arrived yesterday — and ordered a home to be built immediately. They were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gorman.

It was the first post-Donna sale of a home in the big development on the north bank of the Caloosahatchee River. Cape Coral, though hard hit by the storm, was back in business.

Residents Urged To Take Typhoid Shots in Collier

Everglades Plant And Supermarket Mired in Mud

(Special to the News-Press)

EVERGLADES, Sept. 12 — Practically all residents of Collier County today were advised by Dr. Joseph Lawrence, health director, to get typhoid shots as a precaution against a possible epidemic in the wake of Hurricane Donna.

Dr. Lawrence said there is a "potential danger" of typhoid because the sewage treatment plant at Everglades is not operating. It's under a foot of mud left by a 7 1/2 foot tidal wave — and the Naples water supply was unsafe because of breaks in the mains.

The hurricane tide, which Dr. Lawrence said was "shoulder-high on my public health nurse," destroyed all the public health records in the office here.

The only potable water here is being tank-trucked in, Dr. Lawrence said. A shipment of 600 gallons from Fort Myers in a fire truck had to be turned back because there was no place to store the water.

County Sanitarian Bill Clark is attempting to pump out the sewerage plant to get it working again. It will be cast on an outgoing tide to reduce chances of contamination. Chemical toilets were brought in from Dade County to help relieve the disaster conditions.

Mud in Supermarket

There is no food shortage here but the supermarket has a foot of mud covering the floor and can not be opened until water starts flowing through the mains to wash out the mud. Dr. Lawrence said a truckload of food will be shipped in after the store is cleaned out. He reported food supplies from the store stashed in a warehouse by Commissioner J. M. Davidson had been stolen.

Residents of Everglades, Ochopee, Marco, Goodland and Immokalee and areas of Naples where septic tanks are in general use were advised to get the typhoid shots. Serum was being sent here by Dade and Broward County (Continued on Page 2-A)

Western Union Slowed by Donna

Western Union was as much as 10 hours behind in receiving and transmitting messages as a result of Hurricane Donna, Manager Robert M. Donaldson said yesterday. About noon the crash of business abated and the office was lagging only about one hour.

"We got some extra help in from West Palm Beach, Tampa and St. Petersburg and put our bookkeepers on as operators," he added.

New Hurricane May Develop

Turbulent Area Found Near Leeward Islands

SAN JUAN, P. R., Sept. 12 (AP) — A turbulent area was discovered today in the Atlantic northeast of the Leeward Islands and weather forecasters at Miami said surrounding conditions were "favorable for development of another hurricane."

The squally area, with highest winds about 30 miles per hour, is northeast of the islands of St. Kitts and Guadeloupe.

A hurricane hunter airplane investigated the area this afternoon and further reconnaissance was planned tomorrow.

The Weather Bureau said no center or eye to the storm has been found. There was some evidence of a circulation attempting to form in the upper portion of the easterly wave area.

People in the northern Leeward Islands, still mopping up

Warnings Help Cut Death Toll Down to Nine

Boom in Keys May Be Ended By Hurricane

MIAMI, Sept. 12 (AP) — Hurricane Donna's death toll in Florida rose to nine today while damage estimates soared close to the billion dollar mark.

The body of Mrs. Hanson Cutler, 57, was found on the shore of the Halifax River at Daytona Beach. Her husband said she went out to view the storm at its height and presumably was hurled into the river by the wind.

On the west coast, rescue workers located the body of George Brainerd at Bonita Beach. In addition a Bonita Beach man was listed as missing and presumed dead and three Fort Myers area men died of heart attacks during the storm.

Warnings Heeded

Chief Storm Forecaster Gordon Dunn said the respect Floridians showed for the hurricane prevented a high death toll. Thousands evacuated the Florida Keys before the storm.

"If they had ignored the warnings, we could very easily have 500 dead in the keys and around Naples," Dunn said.

In property destruction, Donna topped all former Florida hurricanes by a tremendous margin. The Miami storm of 1926 — most destructive hurricane in the past — did only 75 million dollars damage.

Estimates at this stage were largely guesswork. Many hard-hit areas still were isolated, with no communications.

The Small Business Administration in Washington designed 27 Florida counties as disaster areas, enabling owners of homes, businesses and charitable institutions to apply to the agency for loans to repair damage.

The counties were Charlotte, Collier, Dade, DeSoto, Flagler, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Monroe, Okechobee, Orange, Pinellas, Polk, St. Johns, Sarasota, Seminole, Volusia, Osceola, Indian River, St. Lucie, Broward, Martin and Palm Beach.

Keys Boom Broken

The hurricane apparently broke the building boom on the Florida Keys, where many pretty homes had been erected on low-lying shores fully exposed to wind and wave.

There is no hurricane building code in the keys such as in other South Florida areas and many of the structures torn to pieces by Donna would have been destroyed by far milder storms.

Even the strong Miami homes, built to withstand mighty winds, couldn't be expected to endure the tremendous tidal waves that hit exposed beaches in the Keys. Experts were agreed that real estate and resort development on the Keys will come to a stop and will not be started again for a long time.

Air Force planes flew Army engineers and heavy bridge repair equipment into the Florida (Continued on Page 5-A)

CHARLOTTE SCHOOLS

PUNTA GORDA, Sept. 12 — Charlotte High School, Sally Jones Elementary School and Baker Academy will be in operation Tuesday at the regular time, James B. Lawless, director of public instruction, announced today.

Men Start Tough Job of Restoring Immokalee Power

(Special to the News-Press)

IMMOKALEE, Sept. 12 — Four men walked a dragline through the dark solitude of Corkscrew Swamp last night to rendezvous with power company men at daylight and begin the job of bringing power back to Immokalee.

After an aerial line survey by the power company, Buddy Carter, Chester Walker, Joe P. Brown and a dragline operator identified only as Roscoe set out through the swamp. They had with them a jeep, truck and low-boy and other equipment to help resettle six broken power poles and downed lines on the 65,000-volt line to Immokalee. Brown said the four waded through waist deep water, forded seven road washouts, and at times had to winch out the jeep and tow the truck and lowboy before regaining hard ground.

"The darkness was real this night," said Brown, "and the silence was complete."

Although Immokalee won't have power for about a week, it will be resumed two days earlier because of the midnight trek of the four volunteers through the isolated swamp.



Congressman Paul G. Rogers flew here yesterday to inspect hurricane damage with view to federal assistance and conferred with officials at disaster headquarters. Left to right are Bill Owens, assistant civil defense director; Rogers, Sheriff Flanders Thompson and Willard Boyce, disaster co-chairman.

Insurance Schedule Drafted for Repairs

3 Million Seen As Storm Losses For Charlotte

Estimated 1,220 Homes Damaged In Punta Gorda

By DOROTHY ROUNTREE

PUNTA GORDA, Sept. 12 — Residents of Charlotte County today set about repairing hurricane damage which officials estimated would run at least three million dollars, including an estimated 1,220 homes damaged and 18 demolished in Punta Gorda.

The city water in Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte and Cape Haze was declared safe to drink. Some lights and telephones were restored and officials said most should be back by Tuesday. Schools were suspended pending clearing of roads and repairs to school buildings which were damaged.

City Manager C. C. Ryan said it will take \$40,000 to \$50,000 and six weeks to clear the debris rapidly being piled in front of homes in the city. Plans are being made to buy a chipper, a machine that will grind up the debris and take 10 times as much at one load.

Already the streets are lined with piles of trees, limbs and smaller shrubs but there is still a lot more to be done. Some people cut the tops or "cabbage" from the fallen royal palms to eat and found it good.

Seek Migrant Labor

James H. Simmons, Civil Defense director, said an effort is (Continued on Page 5-A)

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End of Captiva Largely Washed Away by Storm

New Entrance to Blind Pass Cut; Islands Hard Hit

(Editor's Note: The general manager of the News-Press delivered the first papers since the storm to Boca Grande by plane yesterday, and then made an aerial survey of the Lee County islands from there to Bonita Beach. This is his account.)

By CHESLEY F. PERRY

The lower end of Upper Captiva Island north of Captiva Pass has been largely washed away by the hurricane.

Water, at normal tide, was washing over the island yesterday in at least three places, creating what will doubtless become new passes in the area one mile north of Redfish Pass. Redfish Pass was cut through the island by a storm many years ago.

A new entrance to Blind Pass was cut on the Gulf side only one-fourth mile from the Blind Pass bridge. Water was flowing freely through this opening into the Gulf and it appeared navigable for small boats.

From the air it appeared that the South Seas Plantation on the northern tip of Captiva Island withstood the storm well. But a couple of miles farther south the island took a beating.

There was a breach in the seawall in front of Gulf View Inn and one beachfront residence appeared largely destroyed. Dozens of big Australian pines were down on Captiva and beach erosion was heavy.

Sanibel appeared to have fared better than Captiva with little water damage. There were a lot of houses with roofing materials torn off but over half appeared undamaged from the air. Only one (Continued on Page 5-A)

COUNCIL TO MEET

The City Council will hold a special meeting tonight at City Hall to approve vouchers and discuss the hurricane cleanup. Mayor George M. French requested those interested in the ordinance against dogs to stay away as that discussion will not be reopened at the meeting.

Power Returning to City

Curfew Would Bar Any Naples Looting

(Special to the News-Press)

NAPLES, Sept. 12 — Civil Defense authorities, wary of possible looters in hurricane-torn Naples, imposed an 8 p.m. curfew last night as residents began to dig out from the worst storm ever to hit this area.

No one was able yet to estimate the damage in terms of money, but in terms of ruined homes, demolished businesses and interrupted lives it was overpowering.

Power was resumed in most sections last night but telephones were still dead in many areas. Communications were maintained within the city by a loudspeaker truck, which announced the curfew. Water, off for a short while, was coming through the faucets again.

Disaster Area Proclaimed Here By Eisenhower

Low Interest Loans to Be Available; Rogers Here to Push Program of Aid; City Makes Progress in Cleanup Work

By PETE PACKETT

Lee County was designated a major disaster area by President Eisenhower yesterday, along with other hurricane-hit sections of the state, and federal aid was promised swiftly as residents set about cleaning up and repairing damage so widespread that officials still could not estimate the total.

The federal aid came on three fronts:

1. The presidential disaster designation, at Gov. Collins' request, makes federal money available to help repair publically owned facilities such as roads, bridges, public buildings and sanitation and water systems and remove debris.

2. The Small Business Administration declared 27 counties including Lee, Collier, Charlotte and Hendry a hurricane disaster area. This makes low-interest loans available to businessmen and home-owners to repair damage. An SBA field office will be set up in Fort Myers.

3. The Agriculture Department similarly designated 32 counties including Lee, Collier, Charlotte and Hendry a disaster area, enabling hard-hit growers to obtain rehabilitation loans at low interest from the Farmers Home Administration.

Collins Delayed

Collins, scheduled to visit Fort Myers yesterday, was delayed at Marathon in the Keys but plans to fly from Miami today to Naples, Fort Myers and Lakeland.

Congressman Paul G. Rogers flew in, inspected damaged areas from the air, conferred with officials here and announced he would "do what I can to help with the federal programs being set up."

Meanwhile the bodies of two victims of Hurricane Donna were recovered. Searchers found the body of George Brainerd, Bonita Beach grocer, a half-mile from his demolished building. Electric company linemen located the body of J. H. Jackson, Tampa truck driver killed when his truck went off Edison Bridge Saturday (Continued on Page 2-A)

News-Press Issue In Big Demand

Yesterday's issue of the News-Press carrying full accounts of the hurricane and its destruction in Fort Myers and the rest of Southwest Florida, along with three pages of pictures, was in such demand that the pressmen had to be called in to print 5,300 extra copies during the day. Only about 200 were left.

Most of those seeking extra copies mailed them to friends and relatives in the North. The issue carried separate stories detailing the hurricane damage in Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel - Captiva, Bonita Beach, Punta Gorda, Naples, Everglades, Immokalee, Estero, Pine Island, Lehigh Acres and Florida generally, along with other hurricane news.

No Power Yet

That would provide service to Pine Island as far as the cable break at St. James City, he said, and give partial service to North Fort Myers. "We have restored a lot of lines but no power," Welch (Continued on Page 2-A)

Dry Ice Rushed Into Fort Myers

Sixty thousand pounds of dry ice to help meet refrigeration needs was brought into Fort Myers yesterday through the Civil Defense organization, Willard D. Boyce, disaster vice chairman, reported. He said it meets an urgent need to help prevent food spoilage. The dry ice may be purchased from Manatee Ice Co.

The Weatherman Says:

Partly cloudy with few widely scattered afternoon showers, low 74-78, high near 90, south westerly winds 10-15 miles per hour.

East Gulf marine forecast: Naples northward to Cedar Key, west and southwest winds 15 to 25 knots except winds occasionally up to 30 knots in scattered showers, winds becoming northwesterly extreme north portion. Partly cloudy with scattered showers. (Full weather report P. 2-A.)