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FORT MYERS NEWS-PRESS

Thomas A. Edison Said
"There is only one Fort Myers
and 99 million people are
going to find it out."

SEVENTY-SIXTH YEAR FORT MYERS, FLA., MONDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 12, 1960 5c DAILY, 10c SUNDAY

CITY STARTS LIFTING DONNA DEBRIS
AS RELIEF PROGRAMS ARE MAPPED

New England
Now Menaced
By Hurricane

Storm Hits Carolina
And Races Along
Atlantic Coast

MIAMI, Sept. 11 (AP) — Hurricane Donna, having killed more than 120 persons during its week-long journey of destruction, crashed into the U. S. mainland for a second time tonight.

The hurricane, carrying winds of more than 115 miles an hour and churning up mountainous waves, smashed ashore along the North Carolina coastline with a fury that threatened the East Coast all the way to New England.

Donna, having moved into the Atlantic after carving a path of death and destruction nearly the whole length of Florida, picked up both speed and intensity as she moved northeastward.

New England Warned
The Weather Bureau hoisted hurricane warnings all the way northward along the coast to Portsmouth, N. H. Gale warnings and a hurricane watch were posted all the way to Eastport, Maine.

At 11 p. m., the hurricane was centered about 40 miles west-southwest of Cape Hatteras, N.C., moving northeast at about 40 miles per hour.

The Miami Weather Bureau said present direction and speed should bring the hurricane a short distance off the east of Long Island and Cape Cod tomorrow morning.

8 Dead in Florida
Eight persons were known dead in Florida and two others were missing. Property damage in the Keys alone was estimated by insurance adjusters at between 30 and 40 million dollars.

Grim-faced marines, armed with rifles and orders to shoot any looters, patrolled the wreckage of the Florida Keys. Residents of battered Marathon were "hoarding water like gold dust," according to Sheriff John Spottswood.

Citrus Area Hit
The three major citrus producing counties of Polk, Orange and Lake were swept by hurricane winds. Damage to the \$250 million dollar citrus crop was expected to run as high as 50 to 80 per cent in some areas.

Donna first touched Florida near Marathon and followed a giant semicircle through the long peninsula.

It hit the mainland in isolated Everglades National Park, churned up the gulf coast through Fort Myers, then headed inland on a northerly course.

Donna passed through Wauchula, east of Sarasota; Lakeland, east of Tampa; veered northeast past Orlando and blew out to sea at Flagler Beach, midway between Daytona Beach and St. Augustine.

Miami Brushed
Donna brushed west of the populous Miami - Fort Lauderdale area, slamming gusts of 97 miles an hour at the famed resort area.

Torrential rains preceded and followed Donna, dumping more than seven inches on Miami in less than 24 hours.

Red Cross headquarters in Washington announced survey teams were (Continued on Page 2-A)

Citrus Damaged
In LaBelle Area

(Special to the News-Press)
LABELLE, Sept. 11 — Citrus trees in LaBelle and Fort Denard were uprooted or broken and much fruit lost in the hurricane.

Four trailers were overturned in winds clocked at Ortona Locks at 104 miles per hour in gusts.

The Methodist parsonage lost its porch but there was little damage to the church. No services were held today at the Methodist and Baptist churches.

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Fish swim along this flooded main street of Everglades amid debris of business buildings flattened by hurricane winds and tidal waves.

Sanibel Pines
Fall in Storm;
Captiva Eroded

Private Cruisers
Used to Ferry
Residents Back

By DOROTHY FLYNN

The scores of residents who evacuated Lee County's offshore islands at the approach of the hurricane faced delays in getting home to repair their damage which reports yesterday indicated would run high.

The Punta Rasa slips of the ferries serving Sanibel and Captiva were demolished and Ernest Kinzie estimated it would take two weeks to repair them to accommodate vehicular traffic. However, he said he expects to be able to ferry foot passengers by tomorrow from two specially constructed slips.

Private Cruisers
Meanwhile private cruisers transported some residents to the islands and disaster headquarters issued a call for more volunteers with boats for this service. The mail boat will resume service today carrying passengers to the islands.

On the causeway to Boca Grande the highway patrol reported two washouts and estimated it would be at least two days before repairs can be made and traffic resumed.

Commissioner Mack H. Jones said county crews started work at daylight Sunday clearing and patching county roads at Boca Grande.

Twenty-nine residents of Sanibel rode out the storm in a shelter at the home of Francis Bailey. The rest came to shelters in Fort Myers.

Reports received at disaster headquarters here by radio and from Sheriff Flanders Thompson after a visit to Sanibel told of widespread damage to homes.

Tides Above Normal
Tides created four to six feet above normal, washing completely across the islands in some places and leaving the single main road under a foot of sand.

Australian pines, insecurely anchored by widespread but shallow roots, fell like tenpins across the main road that travels down the center of Sanibel and along the Captiva Gulf.

Much of the Captiva road was impassable and parts of the Sanibel road were still blocked under sand drifts and tree falls.

Beachfront property suffered most, said the sheriff's office, with motels and private homes ripped and flooded and roofless. However, said Thompson, Sanibel was not cut in two — a fear spurred by the increase in canals (Continued on Page 2-A)

Roadside Signs
Erased by Storm

Almost no roadside signs were left yesterday following the hurricane along the Tamiami Trail from Fort Myers to Ochopee, fulfilling the anticipation of Ulmer Hawkins, State Road Department agent here to make owners remove illegal billboards.

Just before the hurricane Hawkins said he was "sitting tight" in anticipation that the winds might do his work for him. With the signs now blown down, away or into wreckage, he warned that any who replace them in violation of law will be prosecuted.

2 Missing as Storm
Smites Bonita Beach

Area Desolated
As Tides Sweep
Cottages Away

By RUFUS DAUGHTREY

Bonita Beach yesterday was a scene of devastation as though a war had been fought along its length and breadth. Hurricane winds and tidal waves left homes wrecked or swept away and washed in tons of sand over the county road.

Two men were missing and Sheriff Flanders Thompson said last night that search for them had been given up until Monday. The men are A. A. Lindeau, lunchstand operator, and George Brainerd, grocery operator.

Brainerd had sent his family to safety in Bonita Springs. No trace of him was found in the completely demolished ruins of his concrete block grocery store, reduced to a pile of wreckage of building materials, groceries and hardware.

Ruins of Lunchstand
Lindeau could not be found in twisted ruins of his frame lunchstand, also his home. He was a bachelor. Both places were at the Little Hickory Bay bridge approach to Bonita Beach.

Grim-faced beach residents, led by Deputy William A. Vincek and Capt. C. E. Rush, stood guard on the beach road to keep out looters.

Rush, a real estate broker and owner of extensive property, said it would be impossible to estimate the loss on the beach but guessed it wouldn't be less than "95 per cent and will run into several millions."

He said that on the beach, as elsewhere along the Gulf shore, residents had windstorm protection but none against water damage and that losses would have to be privately borne.

One Wall Left
Rush's own expensive new home was gone except for one windowless wall left standing bleak as a bombed-out home on a battlefield.

Rush owns adjoining apartment units and said he would move into one of those. Furnishings in his home, like those of many another, were vanished.

"I can't build another home, I haven't got the money, but I am not going to leave Bonita Beach," he said.

Within my memory, and within the memory of old timers here, this is the most disastrous hurricane ever to hit Bonita Beach," he said.

A little north of Rush, the exclusive trailer park, owned on a cooperative plan by well-to-do owners of expensive, air-conditioned trailers, was gone as though a giant hand had swept it away.

Swept Into Jungles
The residents, like nearly all others, were gone during the hurricane. The empty trailers were (Continued on Page 2-A)

MAIL DISRUPTED

Mail service was disrupted by Donna on Saturday and no mail was received in Fort Myers until late last night. A postal worker reported that no mail was sent out of the city at all yesterday but service is expected to return to normal today. All regular city, rural and star routes are expected to be in operation today.

Charlotte Area
Gains Disaster
Relief Quarters

Full Force of
Hurricane Strikes
In Punta Gorda

By HOWARD ARCHER

PUNTA GORDA, Sept. 11 — This city was declared a disaster area by the national Red Cross this afternoon and a disaster relief office was immediately set up to give emergency relief to stricken families.

Earl Davis, disaster committee chairman, said hurricane Donna hit the city in full force about 1 p. m. Saturday and winds reached a maximum of 121 miles an hour about 4:30 p. m.

The eye of the storm passed over about 5 p. m. and the wet side which followed, along with high tides, left many sections under water. Damage was extensive and severe but no one would volunteer an estimate.

"I have lived in this area for many years and we have never before experienced a storm as bad as this one was," Davis said.

Guard Unit Aids
A National Guard unit from Sarasota arrived in Punta Gorda this afternoon, bringing a field kitchen, an ambulance and several pieces of equipment. The guardsmen were called to assist in policing the stricken area and will remain in Charlotte County as long as needed.

Keith Roy Lance, southeastern area Red Cross office representative from Atlanta, established an office in Punta Gorda and will be in charge of the emergency relief program for Charlotte County.

300 Homes Damaged
He said an incomplete survey this afternoon showed 16 homes destroyed and over 300 damaged in Punta Gorda. There were 29 trailer homes destroyed and 63 damaged in the same area.

"In Fort Charlotte," said Lance, "the damage is estimated to be about 25 per cent of the homes in the area and we counted approximately (Continued on Page 2-A)

Schools Will Be
Closed 2 Days

Hey kids—no school till Wednesday!

Supt. Ray Tipton announced yesterday that all schools in Lee County will be closed today and tomorrow. Officials of St. Francis Xavier parochial school said it too will be closed until Wednesday.

One reason for the shutdown is the condition of the roads with some school bus routes flooded or blocked by trees or debris. Another is the failure of utilities.

No extensive damage was reported to the schools except at Fort Myers Junior High where the gymnasium and shower building was wrecked. At the Franklin Park school the north-east corner of the roof was ripped off but classrooms were not damaged.

"See that school bus parked (Continued on Page 2-A)

Beach Motels,
Homes Blown In;
Marinas Wrecked

Boulevard Turned
To Roller Coaster
Of Sand Dunes

By CLARE TAYLOR

While national guardsmen at roadblocks barred all sightseers, some 2,400 residents of Fort Myers Beach who had evacuated their island filed apprehensively home yesterday to find appalling devastation from hurricane winds and towering tides.

Sand was packed on San Carlos Boulevard in dunes, making the road a roller coaster. Trailer parks were in shambles, some motels and homes fronting on the Gulf were blown in, boats were smashed in marinas and debris was everywhere.

One roadblock was maintained yesterday at McGregor Boulevard and the Beach Road and another at the San Carlos drawbridge. Only beach residents and those with legitimate business on the island were allowed through.

Bridge Blown Open
The swing bridge had blown open during the storm. It was later closed by beach firemen and members of the beach disaster squad who hauled it shut at some risk. With the stops gone, it was anchored temporarily with chains yesterday awaiting repairs by the State Road Department and a single file of cars crept across.

Exactly 11 residents remained on the sea-swept island during the hurricane and all were accounted for early yesterday by the disaster squad.

One was Mrs. Alice Johnson, who put a life jacket on her dog Duchess in case she herself might have to climb a tree. Her house was blown across a bayou but she swam out and took refuge on a neighboring porch.

Seas at High Tide
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coleman of Holiday Heights, others who remained, reported their area and (Continued on Page 2-A)

Fish Swim in Everglades Streets;
Millionaire Row at Naples Guttled

Huge Flood Rolls
In With Speed
Of Tidal Wave

(Special to the News-Press)

EVERGLADES, Sept. 11 — Fish swam in the hurricane-flooded streets of Everglades today. Nearly every building in town was damaged to some extent and with some blown down, some off the blocks, some unroofed and some caved in by falling trees.

Mayor Kenneth Snyder said there were no reports of deaths or casualties. He said 200 people sought refuge in the courthouse and he sent an emergency appeal to the Red Cross for 100 cots for those still homeless.

A seven-foot high flood inundated Everglades with almost the speed of a tidal wave as the eye of the hurricane passed over and backwash winds began blowing in from the Gulf, Dr. Snyder said.

"See that school bus parked (Continued on Page 2-A)

Collins to Survey Damage;
Utilities Speeding Repairs

Power Lines
Badly Damaged
By Hurricane

Utility companies yesterday mobilized forces to untangle wires crossed by Hurricane Donna, which knocked out all 7,000 customers of Lee County Electric Cooperative, 60 per cent of those served by Florida Power & Light Co. and about one-fourth of the 20,000 telephones in Fort Myers.

City workers pushed repairs at the well field and the main plant to get water running through the lines again, although pressure was low and health authorities considered the water unsafe without treatment.

No damage estimates were made by FP&L or the telephone company but Homer T. Welch, manager of the electric co-op, said of his damage, "You could put it at \$250,000 — or higher."

All the electric co-op's customers in North Fort Myers, Pine Island, Sanibel and Captiva, Lehigh Acres, Immokalee and Everglades were without power.

Plant Flooded
"We were badly hurt in Everglades," Welch said. "Our generator plant was flooded and there is no power there at all."

Survey planes flew over the power lines yesterday afternoon and reported 60 poles down on the 69,000-volt main line from Immokalee to Everglades. The co-op's water crossing at Matlacha and St. James City, serving Pine, Sanibel and Captiva Islands, was broken.

Daniel T. Shearer, Inter-County Telephone Co. general supervisor, said roughly 5,000 phones were out. Service was spotty in the OXFord (East Fort Myers) and WYandotte (North Fort Myers) areas. The Westmore exchange was "marginal," Shearer said, because of a lack of electric power.

Another company official, Maynard Matz, said Westmore exchange, serving the South Fort Myers area, was the only one which did not go completely out of commission.

"It's hard to say when we will get back to normal," Shearer commented. "Outside help is coming in to give us a hand but we won't know how much help we will get until Monday."

Shearer said except for a few hours during the height of the storm Saturday, long distance service to Tampa was maintained through microwave facilities. There were 15 long-distance microwave circuits open to Tampa for emergency use, he said.

Circuits to West Palm Beach and the trunk line to Jacksonville will be restored when a generator at LaBelle gets back into service, Shearer said. Service to Naples was still out. A microwave hookup was being repaired to reach Naples.

Matz said mobile telephones were installed at the fire houses at Fort Myers Beach and Pine Island, both completely cut off (Continued on Page 2-A)

Oh Well, It Could
Have Been Verse

Ernie Stevens, poet-laureate of Fort Myers, produced the following opus yesterday after hacking his way out of the fallen palm fronds:

There was a young lady named Donna.
To meet her I'm sure you don't wanna.
She came from Key West
Full of vigor and zest
And ruined our flora and fauna.

Insurance Men
Ready to Settle
Damage Claims

Adjusters to Pour
Into City; Some
Offices Opened

By JEWELL DEAN

From 75 to 100 insurance adjusters from all parts of the nation are due to pour into Fort Myers to assist with the settling of thousands of claims involving millions of dollars which Hurricane Donna cost Lee Countians who had their property insured.

Southwest Florida is a disaster area of top magnitude, a local agency head said yesterday, and the insurance companies have started preparations to handle the claims deluge. Several agencies here had offices open yesterday, in the afternoon if not all day, to begin the processing of damage claims.

Property owners should not be dilatory in reporting claims, insurance men said. Then some measure of patience may be necessary before payment due to the tremendous amount of work.

Emergency Repairs
Meanwhile, property owners should make emergency repairs as are necessary to protect the property from further damage. This is part of the insurance contract.

If the damage is believed to be in excess of \$100, the insured should notify the insurance agent (Continued on Page 2-A)

Data for Bathers
Goes a Long Way

James M. Congdon, who lives off Gladiolus Drive near the Tamiami Trail at Hendry Creek, picked up a wooden sign among the debris in his yard yesterday that said something about instruction to bathers.

He figured it could have come only from the public park at Fort Myers Beach—about six miles away as the hurricane flies.

Beach Club Hard
Hit, Old Hotel
Is Undamaged

(Special to the News-Press)

NAPLES, Sept. 11 — Police stood guard over "millionaire row" today with hurricane damage extensive to the mansions of the wealthy along the beachfront between the Gulf of Mexico and Gordon Drive.

Traffic was turned backed because water along Gordon Drive was too deep to be navigated by ordinary automobiles. Police Chief Ben Caruthers said that even in a Jeep he was unable to get all the way to Gordon Pass but that the trailer park on the point appeared to have been demolished.

Tidal Wave Hits
Mayor Francis Ford said most of the homes of the millionaires along the beach had been flooded on the ground floor by a tidal wave inundation from reverse (Continued on Page 2-A)

Fatalities Climb;
No Figures on
Losses Compiled

By PETE PACKETT

Wind-ripped Fort Myers began digging out from under debris left by Hurricane Donna yesterday as national Civil Defense and Red Cross survey teams began assessing the damage and mapping relief plans and Gov. Collins headed here for a first-hand inspection today.

Collins announced in Tallahassee that he would come here to check on the damage and would ask President Eisenhower to declare portions of South Florida a major disaster area.

"We don't have a complete picture of the damage yet," Collins said, "but reports indicate pockets of substantial devastation."

Collins will join Judge Thomas H. Goodman, southeastern regional Civil Defense director, Col. H. W. Tarkington, state CD director, and State Adjutant Gen. Mark Lance of the National Guard in Miami, tour the Keys by helicopter and fly to Fort Myers and then to Lakeland.

Aerial Inspection
Tarkington, Goodman, Sheriff Tom Kelly of Dade County assistant state CD director, and two other Civil Defense officials made an aerial inspection with Lee County CD Director M. G. Hitzing yesterday afternoon.

Hal Miller, CD planning officer, and Vic Perratta, CD regional engineer, said the aerial survey was to determine how much of the damage could come under the federal program of relief from effects of natural disasters.

Damage Outlook
There still was no official compilation of the heavy damage. Ralph Barlow, field representative of the American Red Cross in Atlanta, said survey crews were in the field to count houses and trailers destroyed or damaged. The counts should be complete today, he said.

Barlow said a host of national Red Cross officials will be here to set up a relief and rehabilitation program. Headquarters will be opened at the Civic Center at 8:30 a. m. today to receive applications for emergency relief.

Red Cross relief can be given for rebuilding or repair of essential household appliances, and medical aid, food, clothing and shelter. Relief will be granted on the basis of need to individual families.

"The full resources of the national organization will be placed in this disaster area," Barlow added. "The long term rehabilitation pull begins now. It could last six weeks or two months."

Six Fatalities
Apparently six Lee County fatalities can be attributed to Donna's wrath. Two men were missing and believed dead in the devastated Bonita Beach area. John Van Douser, 54, a truck driver who was out riding around during the height of the storm, suffered a heart attack and was dead on arrival at Lee Memorial hospital at 2 a. m. yesterday.

The two missing Bonita Beach (Continued on Page 2-A)

Council Session
Is Postponed

Mayor George Franch announced last night that due to the Civil Defense using the council room as a headquarters during Hurricane Donna and because of damage to the building, the city council meeting scheduled for tonight has been postponed until further notice.

The Weatherman Says:

Partly cloudy with few scattered showers, low 72-77, high 88-91, mostly southwesterly winds 10-15 miles per hour.

Fast Gulf marine forecast. South and southwest winds 10 to 20 miles per hour except becoming northerly extreme north portion. Partly cloudy with widely scattered showers. (Full weather report P. 2-A)