

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, battered New England tonight and was threatening a rain storm after smothering the mid-Atlantic coast with relentless fury.

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

Donna came ashore near Bridgeport, Conn., and spread over a 120-mile front extending from Connecticut to New Hampshire. The Blue Hills Observatory near Boston reported gusts up to 110 m.p.h. and Blue Island, N. I., had gusts to 125 m.p.h.

Within six hours after landing, Donna's power was diminished sharply and damage and destruction in New England was determined.

30 Died in U.S.

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

Weather experts, in making their passage from Virginia to New York City, said Donna was one of the most dangerous hurricanes ever to strike that area. But a major hurricane alert in the mid-Atlantic coast and New England today 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 200,000 people were successfully evacuated from 11 public schools surrounded by flooded streets. Nearly 300 additional students were evacuated from public schools in the city.

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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 back to their property when the hurricane hit arrived yesterday and suffered a home to be destroyed. They were Mr. and Mrs. Harry George.

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

Warnings Help Cut Death Toll Down to Nine

Room 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. Hannah Collier, 71, was found on the shore of the Ballast River at Daytona Beach. Her husband said the worst hit to view the storm at the beach and pointed the way the hurricane hit the river by the wind.

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

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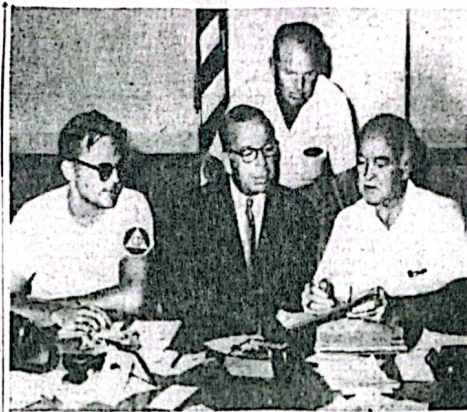
Chief Storm Forecaster Gordon Dunn said the respect Florida residents showed for the hurricane prevented a high death toll. Thousands evacuated the Florida Keys before the storm.

"If they had ignored the warnings, we could very easily have 100 dead in the keys and around them," Dunn said.

In property damage, Donna totaled 11 former Florida hurricanes. The Miami storm of 1955 caused \$1.2 billion in damage.

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Congressman Paul G. Rogers here yesterday to inspect hurricane damage with federal assistants and members of state disaster headquarters. Left to right are Bill Rogers, assistant civil defense director; Rogers, Sheriff Flanders Thompson and Willard Boyer, disaster co-ordinator.

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 PETER FAHEY

Fort 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 as 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 publicly 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 businesses and businesses in the area would "do what I can to help."
3. The Reconstruction Department similarly designated 27 counties including Lee, Collier, Charlotte and Hendry a disaster area.

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Residents Urged To Take Typhoid Shots in Collier

Everglades Plant And Supermarket Mired in Mud

MIAMI, Sept. 12 (AP)—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 being caused by the sewage treatment plant at Everglades. The plant is a mile or more from the beach and is a "hot bed" of mud by a "T" road and the Naples water supply is in trouble because of break in the main.

The hurricane tide, which Dr. Lawrence said was "abundant" in the Everglades, "has covered all the public health records in the office here."

The only public health record in the office here is a "hot bed" of mud by a "T" road and the Naples water supply is in trouble because of break in the main.

Insurance Schedule Drafted for Repairs

3 Million Seen As Storm Losses For Charlotte

By JEWELL DEAN

Efforts to work out plans for hurricane repairs which will run into millions of dollars in Lee County had begun today as temporary employees were called in for a meeting of insurance appraisers and contractors.

The cleanup work was pushed last night and restoration work here is expected to proceed quickly and smoothly.

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End of Captiva Largely Washed Away by Storm

New Entrance to Blind Pass Cut; Islands Hard Hit

By CRESLEY F. PERRY

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

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

From the island, it appeared that the South Sea Plantation on the northern tip of Captiva Island without the storm wall, but a couple of miles farther north the island was a beach.

There was a beach in the sea wall in front of Gulf View Inn and one tent-front residence appeared largely destroyed. Dozens of large Australian palms were down on Captiva and beach area was busy.

Sandals 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 tent-front residence appeared largely destroyed.

Power Restored To Many Sections Of Fort Myers

Service in Sight For Pine Island, Lehigh Acres

Power was restored to about 65 per cent of Fort Myers and Lehigh Acres and Lehigh Acres Electric Cooperative began to restore service by midnight to about half of North Fort Myers and Pine Island.

Inter-County Telephone Co. said 75 per cent of the phones in Lee County were in working order as repairs on Hurricane Donna's damage were pushed.

While restoration was being made elsewhere, a power line at First and Ocean Streets serving the City Hall building was out in what Bill Rogers, assistant civil defense director, called a "pretty good burst of lightning."

The night went out in disaster headquarters and the police station as the flash and roar started with a bang at about 10 p.m. The power company did not know the cause of the trouble immediately.

The Way Lines Co. Manager J. L. Sanders of Fort Myers and Lehigh Acres Power and Light said, "We're hoping to have everybody back on service by Wednesday night."

There were many sections where power had not been restored yet. "We may have power in some areas by Wednesday night, but we're not sure of the whole thing, the way we have it," Sanders said.

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 Beach, Lehigh Acres, Boca Raton, Punta Gorda, Naples, Everglades, Immokalee, and other sections of the state, was in big demand.

Many copies of the paper were sold out by the time it was published. The paper was in big demand.

Western Union Slowed By Donna

Western Union was as much as 10 hours behind in sending and receiving messages as a result of Hurricane Donna, Manager Robert M. Donahue said yesterday. About one-third of the business and the office of Western Union in Fort Myers was closed.

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

Men Start Tough Job of Restoring Immokalee Power

Four men walked a dreary line through the dark night of Crocker Swamp last night to reestablish power company lines at daylight and begin the job of bringing power back to Immokalee.

After an aerial line survey by the power company, they set out to lay the lines. They had to work at the top and bottom of the swamp and at times had to wade through the water.

"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 restored two days earlier than the midnight light of the last year.

Beach Residents Show Fine Spirit

Fort Myers Beach residents "are showing a fine spirit" they're picking up and showing great spirit," Sheriff Flanders Thompson reported.

"I've never seen the like," Thompson said. "They're working like a bunch of heroes, picking up the beach and helping each other."

He said Fort Chief Walter C. Thomas, in charge after Joe Bonta was injured in the storm, said, "We're doing a great job. We're doing a great job. We're doing a great job."

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Curfew Would Bar Any Naples Looting

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Turbulent Area Found Near Leeward Islands

SAN JUAN, P.R., Sept. 12 (AP)—A turbulent area was discovered today in the Atlantic north of the Leeward Islands and nearby Carriacou and St. Vincent.

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