

DONNA WAS THE WORST STORM WE EVER HAD

We who were here on Saturday, Sept. 10, 1960, always thought Hurricane Donna was the worst storm ever. Just how bad was it?

In its 5,000 mile sweep from the Leeward Islands through the length of Florida and north to the Gulf of St. Lawrence she did one billion dollars damage and killed 143 people in the U.S., fortunately none in this county but four in Lee County to the north and 10 more in Florida.

"The most destructive storm ever to hit the United States" said the county Civil Defense report, concluding she had a peak energy equal to a hydrogen bomb fired every eight minutes.

To Naples she brought 13 inches of rain, tides nine to 12 feet deep that swept three miles inland, and winds up to 180 miles an hour. Other areas reported 192 mph winds.

After careful preparation and hard work by dozens of public workers and volunteers there were no deaths and few injuries in Collier County but my conservative estimate from underwriters' claims and city and county building permits was a total \$25 million loss "of record" but much was never listed.

That loss was equal to one sixth of the county's 1960 total \$152,623,277 taxable value, which compares with today's \$12,799,152,534 total tax roll, according to Property Appraiser Sam Colding.

Donna didn't sneak in. Her progress was checked so well that the Civil Defense Council was activated Sept. 8. United to operate the county were the county commission, mayors of both cities, the school superintendent, and the sheriff and police

MNR

(2)

chief. They ran the county for 10 days, with after-storm help from the National Guard and Broward and Dade County sheriff and fire groups.

Continuing broadcasts from Radio Station WNOG, until it was destroyed, gave confidence to local people as Sheriff E.A. Doug Hendry, Commissioner Dick Goodlette, radio man Bill Ryan and Walter Donovan, CD director, told of the storm progress, shelter plans and evacuation orders.

Evacuation wasn't a perfect job. A city policeman couldn't get a lady to leave Gordon Drive. "What can I do?" he queried by radio.

"Just ask for her next of kin," he was told, and it worked.

The Friday night gusty winds brought a CD meeting at Naples city hall where one official proposed sending school buses 37 miles across the open, wind-whipped Tamiami Trail to evacuate Everglades.

"you go over in that corner and sit down and hush," Sheriff Hendry politely ordered and the official obeyed.

By Saturday morning the steady 60 mile northeast winds were making problems. The 200 black residents of McDonald's Quarters had been evacuated from their homes or the Carver School shelter to the ACL depot at 4:30 a.m. and fled from there at 9 a.m. when the roof started lifting. They made it to safety in a nondescript straggling parade of police and private cars to the bowling alley five miles north in Pine Ridge.

One of those lucky people, Mrs. Verdleen Williams, recalls after they got inside the alley she looked out and saw the car

(3)

of her father, James Williams, "spinning like a top" in the parking lot until it fetched up against a tree and stopped.

Their refuge ^{was} almost a disaster area when the wind turned southwest and workers had to reenforce the weak west wall, led by Norbert O. Siegfried, a Port Royal resident.

Radio station WSUN was then reporting 129 mile winds at Sanibel and Captiva but it didn't seem that strong in Naples.

The combination of a low tide at 8:59 a.m. and the wind blowing into the gulf pushed the water out to empty Naples Bay and bare the bottom offshore at distances estimated up to six miles. Then came the eye of the storm and blissful silence at 11:45 a.m. that lasted until 1 p.m.

The barometer had dropped to 28.18 inches as the wind swung southwest and pushed the water back with a rush that filled downtown Naples in a solid sheet from the gulf to the bay, pouring through beachfront homes and even a few inches into Fifth Avenue stores.

It was incredibly worse at Everglades where no eye came in 13 hours of storm winds, clocked at 140 miles an hour when the gauge blew away, and an 11 foot tide flooded every home and store. Blacks occupied the courthouse "first floor" nine feet above ground and whites were on the floor above.

"As the water rose, we integrated," joked one survivor, but that was about the only laugh in the area for Everglades was a soggy mass of grey river bottom mud that would take weeks to clean. Smashed trailers and truckloads of debris were hauled out and dumped at the Trail crossing at Carnestown. Luckily

(4)

} there were no fires for the city fire truck was buried under the collapsed timbers of the big garage.

People sheltering in the beachfront Naples home of Dr. Daniel Langley at 20th Avenue and First Street, South, now Gulfshore Boulevard, wondered where the gulf went before the eye. "After the eye, we knew, it was in our living room" one said.

In Port Royal a 65 foot grouper boat was safely grounded on one of the many vacant lots. At the beach the 1,000 foot pier had only a few staggered piling left and mullet draped the city hall shrubbery and were caught in the Cambier Park baseball backstop where the war memorial now stands.

All over the county houses with roofs stripped to bare boards were a common sight, their asphalt strip roofing often seen to have lifted and flown away in one piece like a big bird.

The school system, just completing a massive expansion, was rudely shoved back into old buildings and double sessions. The new Shadowlawn Elementary in East Naples lost eight classrooms when the roofs folded back and left them open to the sky.

Naples High, just moved into its new home Sept. 8, went back temporarily to Gulf View Middle School.

Damage was heavy all over Naples, beginning at Gordon's Pass where tides swept away the fishing camp and trailer park, a settlement dating to 1874.

Countywide there were 1,722 homes damaged with 50 badly damaged but fixable and 50 more that couldn't be repaired. In the city 10 of the 22 worst damaged places couldn't be fixed, including the charming Welkin-by-the-Sea home of J. Wells Kincaid

(5)

at 32nd Avenue, South, on the curve in Gordon Drive.

The most complete loss was up north where my personal check showed severe damage to every one of ^{the} 43 structures between Vanderbilt Beach and Naples Park including 38 homes, two motels and two marinas. A real estate office at the beach disappeared along with the west 50 feet of the Vanderbilt Beach Road.

The furniture of the Vanderbilt Beach Motel ended up in a vacant lot in Naples Park a mile away.

Sparsely peopled Bonita Beach was even worse off. The month-old home of Marian Buchanan of Naples was gone, as were several others, and 26 new trailers at the Mobile Homes Village washed across the bay and smashed into the mangroves. Another beach frame house floated two miles inland and dropped on a road.

There were three storm deaths at Bonita, where gulf waves flooded one and a half miles inland. A.A. "Lindy" Lindeau, 75, chose to stay in the trailer behind his restaurant and George Brainerd, 54, went back to check his general store during the storm's eye. Their buildings were destroyed and their bodies were found two days later close together a mile from shore.

Just after the storm on Saturday C.J. Doell, 70, died of a heart attack. A truck driver also died at Fort Myers as his semi was swept off the Edison Bridge.

While 80 per cent of Naples main Fifth Avenue business area was damaged, there were exceptions. Former Mayor W. Roy Smith's real estate office at Eighth Street lost no windows even though they had been left unboarded, and the Church of God on 10th Street, North, lost only one pane out of its new stained glass

(6)

window.

All over town coconuts and other trees were down but many were saved, propped up by city crews. The pier would be rebuilt with \$104,000 from Dellora and Lester Norris, a small part of the \$29 million they gave our area over the years, which included the Norris Center in Cambier Park and DelNor Park's land.

The Red Cross sheltered 1,350 people in Immokalee and 200 at Everglades and provided \$105,198 in help for 618 needy families in a county whose population then was 15,753 with 4,655 in Naples. Today's population, according to the 1989 figures of the Chamber of Commerce, is 20,625 in Naples and 144,721 in the county.

It was a sidelight that made national news wires when Gov. LeRoy Collins flew in to survey the damage and joined City, later Circuit, Judge Harold S. Smith to free Willie Boyd and Bobby Otis McNeal from their jail terms for being drunk and disorderly. The two black men had swum through chest deep water to save six women and children who were trapped on the city fire truck when it drowned out while evacuating city hall at the height of the storm.

It was 30 years later that James Lorenzo Walker, former county commissioner and later state representative, recalled a graphic Donna memory.

"I looked out of my North Trail office window and saw a refrigerator tumbling across the road, four feet off the ground," he said. "I don't know where it went."

HURRICANES

The following list consists of hurricanes that directly affected Collier County since the National Weather Service in Miami has been keeping track, (1871).

- 1) October 6, 1873
- 2) October 19, 1876
- 3) September 25, 1894
- 4) October 17, 1910
- 5) September 18, 1926
- 6) September 10, 1960

Hurricanes are whirlwinds that may grow to be more than 300 miles in diameter. As they spin over the ocean, converting heat from the sunwarmed water to wind, hurricanes release more energy each minute than the largest hydrogen bomb. Once these winds start moving, they feed on energy from the warm, moist air over which they travel. As long as the hurricane is over warm water, it usually continues to build. While moving over the ocean, it lifts billions of tons of water everyday and dumps most of it back as rain in the next 24 hours. When the storm moves inland or over colder water, the loss of heat energy from the ocean eventually causes the hurricane to die.

The photographic exhibit covers the 1926 and 1960 hurricanes.

September 18, 1926. This fast moving storm hit Miami on the morning of September 18 and was battering Everglades by noon of the same day. Storm winds blew the water out of the Barron River and Chokoloskee Bay and then surged back into the waterfront town to the height of over eight feet.

The townspeople who did not evacuate rode out the storm on the second floor of the Everglades Inn. As they watched from the Inn's window, the storm quickly rearranged the landscape of the town. Houses were blown off their foundations and either floated or sailed across town. Others were ripped apart by the winds. Parked automobiles were filled with muddy salt water and sea creatures. Those animals trapped in cars later died when the water subsided leaving a stench that lingered for weeks. All the cows that were pastured in Everglades drowned for lack of an elevated shelter. At the north end of town, Port Dupont with its

repair complex for Barron G. Collier's steamship line and road building equipment for the Tamiami Trail, was leveled.

In a truly pioneering spirit, only a few people chose to leave the area. Barron G. Collier sent his yacht, the Baroness, to pick up survivors and to bring emergency supplies a few days later.

The damage from this storm was very severe in the Miami area and from Pensacola into Southern Alabama. 243 people lost their lives in this hurricane.

PHOTOGRAPHS

These photographs are from Everglades City, Florida.

- 1 - High winds and flood waters in Everglades City during the 1926 storm.
- 2 - Buildings were damaged from the winds, flooding and surges.
- 3 - Aerial view of storm damage looking east down Broadway. The Administration Building is on the left, Everglades Inn is on the far right, the Everglades Club and Central Garage are in the top right and the jail in the center in the background.
- 4 - View along Broadway West with Central Garage in the center and the Bakery to the far right with a trolley parked in front.
- 5 - High flood water after 1926 storm.
- 6 - View from the water tower looking along Broadway West showing the State Road Department on the left, which was torn from it's foundation and blown into the street coming to rest near the Everglades Inn.
- 7 - Street flooding.
- 8 - View from Broadway West as seen from the roof of the Rod and Gun Club. Everglades Inn is on the left, Administration Building on the right with the Barron River in the background.
- 9 - Ed Scott's Ford standing in a flooded street in Everglades City, 1926.
- 10 - Ed Scott seated on a row boat that is tied to the rail of the Rod and Gun Club.
- 11 - Woman and her dog standing in flooded street.
- 12 - Storm damage and flooding. Western Union Office to the far right.
- 13 - Work crews begin the clean-up.
- 14 - Oscar Lybass leaning on the fender of his partially submerged automobile parked in front of the Everglades Club.

"IT'S AN ILL WIND THAT BLOWS NO ONE A GOOD CASE OF SCOTCH"

If a case of perfectly healthy and robust Scotch came floating into your life - would you, or would you not turn it over to the "proper" authorities , presuming that the authorities are "proper" in this respect? Or would you "turn it up?"

This is the condition of mind of D.C. Griffon, Everglades' premier plumber.

It all happened like this:

The storm raged, the plumber plumbed the depths of despair. His door blew open and, presto, a square box came floating more or less bumpily, but majestically, into his place of business.

Now, it is related, Mr. Griffon had never seen such a box before; so he scrutinized it closely and decided he had better investigate its contents, which he did. It proved to be twelve perfectly good bottles of an approved brand, with a little water outside but none inside.

Mr. Griffon's first impulse was to rush out with this contraband and carry it posthaste to the nearest Volsteadian official; but there was water in the streets, and Mr. Griffon, it is related, hated to get his feet wet. Also the wind was blowing, and he doesn't care much for wind. So he sat him down and considered.

There are those in Everglades who believe that he is still considering. If he has sought legal advise, it is not a matter of public knowledge. Everglades attorneys to a man are said to believe that when a box of happy hooch drifts thus into a man's place of business, he is not manufacturing, transporting, or otherwise breaking the 18th Amendment; while mere laymen believe that this amendment has been broken so often that there is not enough of it left to find a piece large enough to break.

The Collier County News, Everglades, Collier County Florida.
Thursday, September 23, 1926.

September 10, 1960 : Hurricane Donna. "Special Collier County Hurricane Forecast. Winds and squalls will increase steadily this evening reaching hurricane force by midnight. Due to the northeast and east winds, the tides will not rise much until the hurricane center passes abreast of Collier County. The movement of the hurricane has been erratic during the last several hours and a more precise forecast of the maximum winds and tides will have to wait until later this evening. At this time, all persons in Collier County are urged to make necessary hurricane precautions. No evacuation seems necessary at this time. However, all persons should keep in touch with further advisories and bulletins over their radios." Leonard Pardue, Spokesman for Miami Hurricane Center. This bulletin was aired on September 9, 1960, things would change on the 10th.

September 10, 1960 : A broadcast beamed to Collier County indicates that Naples and Collier County will receive the full brunt of Hurricane Donna. Sheriff Doug Hendry broadcasts from Civil Defense Headquarters: "Emergency action will be required on the part of the people living in the Naples area. It is recommended persons living south of 8th Avenue, South, or along the beach and west of 1st Street, south of 5th Avenue, South and east of West Lake Drive, east of 9th Street from 5th Avenue, South to 8th Avenue, North, please prepare for an orderly evacuation. This evacuation must be completed by 7 a.m. this morning. Red Cross shelters are available at the Naples High School, the Masonic Hall and the old Railroad Depot. If you plan to leave town, please register at the Naples High School first. Stay calm. Do not get excited."

Donna is heading straight for Naples. Gusts are reported at 166 mph. Evacuation bulletins are announced for Marco, Goodland, Isles of Capri, Everglades, Chokoloskee Island, East Naples, Naples Park and Vanderbilt Beach. Throughout the day bulletins increase in frequency and urgency.

A tropical hurricane with its counter clockwise circulating winds is dangerous for three reasons: heavy rains with resulting flooding, high winds and high tides, and always, there is the possibility of a tidal wave.

"This is an extremely dangerous hurricane. You will be safe if you take action as requested now. Please remain calm." Sheriff Hendry.

The last ham radio report is received at 7 a.m. in Everglades City. Winds are 120 mph. The storm is coming but noone knows when the maximum winds will arrive. At 7:45 a.m., Civil Defense Headquarters is evacuated to the Red Cross shelter at the high school.

8:00 a.m. winds are at hurricane force. The roof begins to peel off the Railroad Depot Shelter - people inside are moved to Pine Lane Bowling Alley.

Communications are failing. UPI Network has blown down. The final contact with the weather bureau if by phone at 8:30 a.m. The eye is nearing Everglades City. The eye will pass over Naples, according to the weather bureau radar, between ten and eleven a.m..

By 9:30 a.m. any communication out of the city is non-existence. The barometer proves to be the best indicator of Donna's location.

The eye passes over Naples at noon, it lasts one hour. By 1:00 p.m., the winds are picking up again, this time from the opposite direction. Now the high tides are coming in. The southwesterly winds are bringing in the water that was blown out of the inland waters earlier and returning them forcefully with new gulf waters over the wind-battered mainland. Homes that survived the winds are now giving way to a nine and a half foot wall of water.

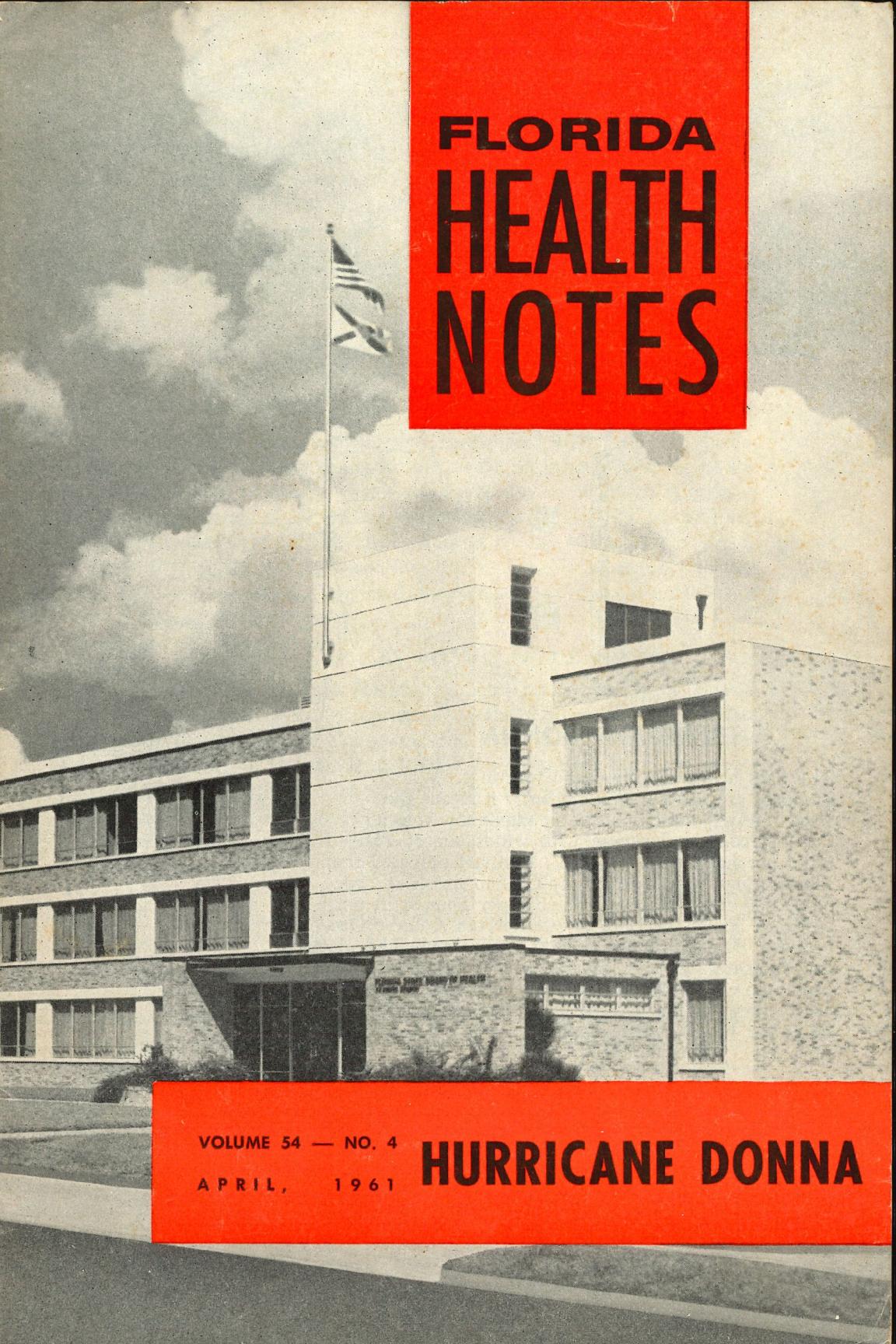
6:00 p.m. The winds have calmed. Donna is gone but not forgotten.

Fortunately, no lives were lost from Donna's passage over Collier County.

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 15 - Palm tree outside Naples residence twisted by Donna 1960.
- 16 - Gordon Pass Fish Camp in Naples. The camp never re-opened.
- 17 - Corner of 5th Ave. and 3rd St. in Naples blocked by fallen trees.
- 18 - Damage to home on Vanderbilt Beach. Photo by Tom Morgan.
- 19 - House trailers, some submerged, blown from Bonita Beach trailer park across Fish Trap Bay. Photo by Tom Morgan.
- 20 - Trailer park on Bonita Beach. Photo by Tom Morgan.
- 21 - Anthony Frederici's home on Vanderbilt Beach. Photo by Tom Morgan.
- 22 - Furniture from the Vanderbilt Beach Hotel litter the beach. Photo by Tom Morgan.

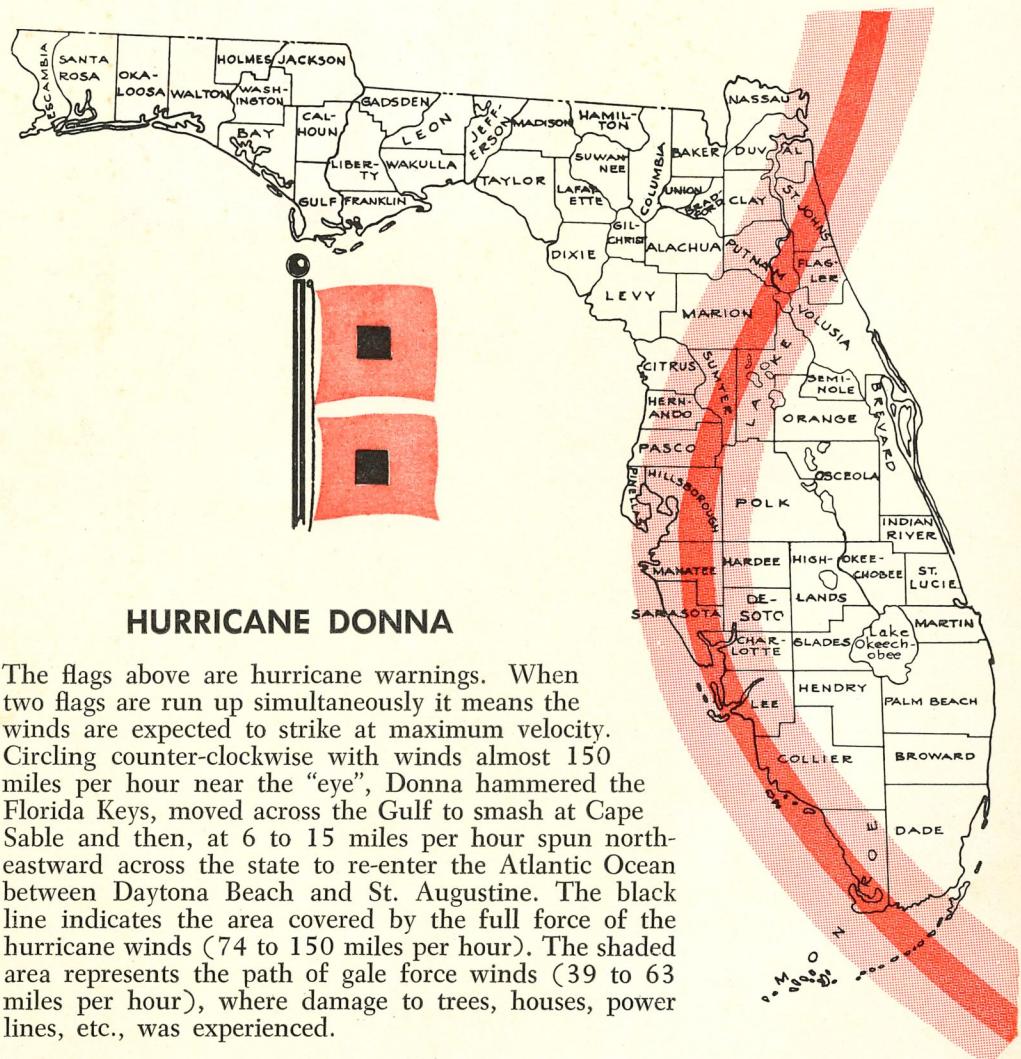
- 23 - Naples Airport. Photo by Tom Morgan.
- 24 - Naples City Docks -- some boats smashed on to dry land. Photo by Tom Morgan.
- 25 - Two automobiles swept off Gordon Drive into Naples Bay.
- 26 - Naples Marina
- 27 - Erosion and damage done to a seawall on Naples Beach.
- 28 - Broken pavement lying on Naples Beach. Photo by Tom Morgan.
- 29 - National Guard troops come to Everglades City. Photo by Tom Morgan.
- 30 - Naples Pier. Photo by Tom Morgan.



FLORIDA HEALTH NOTES

VOLUME 54 — NO. 4
APRIL, 1961

HURRICANE DONNA



Several years ago a violent hurricane roared out of the Caribbean, feinted at the southern coastline and swept northward to strike at the nation's capitol. Floridians smiled tolerantly when a northern newspaper flashed the headline, FLORIDA HURRICANE STRIKES WASHINGTON. Tropical storms have struck hard at Florida in the past but many other parts of the country would find it hard to believe that for a number of years several eastern seaboard states have had far more hurricane trouble than Florida.

HOWEVER . . . AS ALL THE WORLD KNOWS

In September of 1960 Florida was hard hit by Hurricane Donna. The storm struck at the comparatively isolated Keys, as well as other parts of Florida, notably the lower west coast. Low-lying and open to the raging fury of the winds and tides the Keys have no water supply of their own but receive it in pipelines from the mainland. Other health facilities are somewhat limited due to the nature of the Keys though the Monroe County Health Department, with headquarters in Key West, gives excellent service to its 100 mile stretch of separated communities.

When Donna was known to be headed for our coastline the State Board of Health and the County Health Departments on both the east and west coasts mobilized on a round-the-clock basis to begin preventive measures to insure the health of the people.

This issue of **HEALTH NOTES** is not intended to be a disaster manual. Instead, it is meant to show the necessity for and the response of the various health and related agencies, who mobilize and function in times

FLORIDA HEALTH NOTES

Published monthly except July and August on the 5th of the month by the Florida State Board of Health. Publication office Jacksonville, Fla., headquarters of the State Board of Health. Entered as second class matter, Oct. 27, 1921, at post office, Jacksonville, Fla., Act of Aug. 24, 1912. It is intended primarily for individuals and institutions with an interest in the state health program, public and private. Permission is given to quote any story. Clipping of quotations or excerpts would be appreciated.

of disaster. Therefore, the story we have to tell will dwell more on the *health aspects* of the aftermath of this particular storm.

Hurricane Donna was spawned in the Leeward Islands and began her 3000 mile trek with winds around 135 miles per hour. The first advisory on Donna was at 5 p.m. EST, September 2, 1960. She left 23 dead in the Lesser Antilles, moved north of Puerto Rico where she claimed nearly 100 lives and swept across the Bahamas.

PREPARATIONS

Two days before Donna struck Florida, a Central Office Disaster Committee of key State Board of Health officials was formed to operate on an around-the-clock schedule to answer inquiries on preventive health measures, relay messages to agencies and departments concerned and arrange transportation of emergency drugs and supplies. The path of Donna was charted almost hourly on a large map of Florida and the names of personnel stationed in specific locations posted. Contact with "ham" operators was set up for the lower part of the state. Telegrams were sent to all County Health Departments requesting personnel to make themselves available on immediate notice.

County medical societies, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Civil Defense and other agencies planned similar protective programs. For example, four days before Donna arrived, the Lee County Mosquito Control District installed mobile radio units in seven of their trucks and erected a concrete base station which "went on the air" Thursday night, September 9. An alternate station was established in the City Hall at Ft. Myers. Other radio installations were placed at the Community House shelter in Sanibel, a private home, the Tice shelter and in the business office of the Lee Memorial Hospital. Anticipating a tidal wave, arrangements were made for helicopter evacuation of residents on Sanibel and Captiva Islands. Many were evacuated this way, but some elected to remain because they did not wish to abandon their pet animals and birds. In St. Petersburg, the Pinellas County Health Department co-ordinated their activities with the Civil Defense authorities to maintain pumps and chlorinate water supplies. In Dade County a staff of nearly 100 public health nurses was recruited to assist in American Red Cross shelters with county sanitarians arranging for food, water and sanitary facilities. News media released information on emergency personal health, stocks of food, water, lamps and candles. As Donna came closer, health department employees moved into Civil Defense Centers. At Islamorada (one of the Keys) a shelter was established at the Coast Guard Building.

And so it was throughout the state—the Florida Department of Agriculture, the Department of Public Safety, the State Road Department and many others—all made preparations to meet Donna's fury.



For eight days while Donna's path was charted by Navy Hurricane Hunters and the Weather Bureau, strong gusty winds blew over south and central Florida. In three days 13 inches of rain fell and soils became soggy. Harvesting was interrupted. By Saturday, September 10, the gales had increased to between 70 to 90 miles per hour over most of the area. Communications to the Keys began to fail and in a short time contact had been broken over a 35 mile stretch from Tavernier to Marathon. Tavernier's last report to the mainland recorded 135 miles per hour winds early on September 10. Islamorada, nine miles south, once again became an island when bridges and approaches were washed away. The lighthouse on Sombrero Key, in the Straits of Florida south of Marathon, had wind gusts of 166 miles per hour velocity at 2 a.m. Barometric pressure dropped to 27.89. About 300 of Marathon's 4700 residents rode out the storm atop tables, beds and dressers in trailers and other dwellings. In the Marathon-Tavernier area, it has been estimated 85 per cent of the buildings were destroyed or severely damaged. Key Colony, the only incorporated community other than Key West, was totally demolished.

The storm blew up to 100 miles per hour across Cape Sable. Everglades National Park officials said later that the Flamingo section was submerged under 14 feet of water.

In the Gulf of Mexico, Donna veered northwest through Everglades City and an 11 foot tidal wave wiped out nearly half of the buildings and left mud and debris on the streets and inside houses. Some areas

were under seven feet of water for 10 hours. For three days during the storm evacuees huddled on the second floor of the Courthouse where an emergency clinic and immunization station was established. Collier County Health Department records were a total loss under five feet of water even though they had been placed high off the floor. Naples had winds up to 120 miles per hour. Shortly after the storm "eye" passed this point the wind action was reversed from northeast to southwest. This switch and the low pressure of the "eye" caused rapidly rising tides up to 12 feet, leaving at least three feet of seaweed, fish and filth inside homes and on the roads. Donna reached Ft. Myers about noon with the "eye" passing over the city at 2:30 p.m. Winds were constant and powerful. Tides rose to seven feet above normal and damage in densely populated Ft. Myers ran into many millions of dollars.

Taking a northeast course across Florida, the hurricane passed through the central citrus growing areas. At 7 a.m., September 11, Donna moved out into the Atlantic with winds of 99 miles per hour at Flagler Beach, midway between St. Augustine and Daytona Beach. Then she curved north on her destructive path.

After zigzagging through Florida she went up the coast and over the northeastern part of the United States from Long Island to Maine. Over 30 lives were lost in the various states, 11 of these in Florida. Deaths were unusually low considering the intensity of the storm and the extensively populated regions through which Donna swept.



FLORIDA HEALTH NOTES • 82

THE AFTERMATH

Over the Keys and in Collier, Polk, Lee, Charlotte and other counties Donna left a mass of tangled trees and shrubs, smashed chairs, overturned automobiles, demolished trailers and boats and splintered and gutted buildings. Above all was the stench of rotting seaweed, animal and marine life. The odor became worse as foodstuffs in stores, restaurants and homes began to spoil because of lack of refrigeration.

As soon as winds had subsided enough for safety outdoors, rescue teams searched for bodies in the wreckage of thousands of homes, shattered vessels and upturned house trailers. Clothing, stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners, mattresses, crawfish traps and thousands of other items were a jumbled mass on the ground, in the trees and hanging from telephone and light wires. A week after Donna's visit some of these same items were seen adrift in the Atlantic and Gulf five miles from Florida shores.

TO WORK

The State Road Department began an immediate cleanup of the main road arteries. Telephone and power companies dispatched work crews. The National Guard, County Sheriff's Departments and State Highway Patrol went on duty to prevent looting and maintain order. City and County Commissioners met in emergency sessions. Inspections were made by air to ascertain the amount of destruction and the health needs. President Eisenhower declared Florida's hard hit sections major disaster areas. The Federal Housing Authority began to function for those holding FHA mortgages. The Small Business Administration began to arrange loans to assist those qualifying under their regulations. And so on.

But health authorities were concerned about outbreaks of food poisoning, amebic dysentery, infectious hepatitis, influenza, typhoid and other illnesses which may come after lands have been overrun with water, filth and debris. Teams of doctors, nurses and sanitarians from the State Board of Health, U. S. Public Health Service, County Health Departments, hospitals, county health and medical groups and private physicians entered the disaster area to establish emergency clinics and treat minor injuries and shock victims and to give typhoid and tetanus shots. The Red Cross, Salvation Army, Civil Defense and others also moved in. Undoubtedly, because of the immediate precautions taken not a single case of communicable disease was reported in the entire state as the result of Donna's visit.

Through the years Floridians have learned a preparedness procedure for hurricane alerts. As soon as it appears likely that a hurricane will visit an area the residents begin to put up the storm shutters, store away all loose objects such as lawn chairs and garbage cans, and securely fasten garage doors and windows. In the house, candles and kerosene lamps are broken out and a supply of matches laid by each. New batteries are purchased for flashlights and portable radios, if needed. Where available, dry ice is purchased and placed in food freezers and tubs and other containers are stocked with ice in event of power failures. A supply of canned goods is purchased as well as canned heat for cooking. Several large bottles or other types of containers are filled with fresh water and as an added precaution the bathtub is also filled.

With preparations complete the family draws into its protective shell to wait patiently until the storm has blown itself out. They are kept abreast of its progress by means of the battery-powered radio and are careful not to go out while the "eye" is passing over.

When the storm has passed they come forth to clean up any debris or litter and to give less fortunate neighbors and friends a helping hand. In a way it's quite an experience and to some it is an exhilarating break in the monotony of everyday living!

A FIRST!

For the first time in Florida's hurricane history a relatively new laboratory technique was used to test for water pollution. The membrane filter water test determines water contamination in 18 hours instead of the usual two to four days. Temporary water laboratories were established in the storm damaged areas by the State Board of Health's Bureau of Laboratories. In Dade County alone sanitarians collected, during September, 1449 water samples from public drinking water sources, private wells and cisterns.

Six thousand feet of water main supplying the Keys were damaged by the storm. The U. S. Navy, which maintains the aqueduct, began repair work at once. On September 20, ten days after Donna, Key West residents received their first water from the pipeline but were restricted from using it for any unnecessary uses, such as car washing, lawns, filling swimming pools and the like. The Florida Keys Aqueduct Commission had two storage tanks of water but lack of pressure and breaks in the system prohibited its use. Later, however, valves were installed on the tanks and it was drawn by the pailful, after being chlorinated because of the questionable condition of some of the containers people used for carrying water home.

A CUPFUL AT A TIME

In Everglades City water was trucked in from Miami and rationed by the cupful. Beside spigots on the trucks appeared signs, "For Drinking Only." There were no bathtub rings in these areas. A Miami brewery filled 6000 beer bottles with water and trucked it to sections where it was scarce. A milk company bottled water in disposable cartons. The Navy, Red Cross, Civil Defense and National Guard brought in tanks of water.

In Marathon and vicinity hard liquor sales were prohibited although beer sales were allowed from noon to 3:30 p.m. then extended to 6 p.m. Cases of non-alcoholic beverages were brought in and these were distributed from shelter areas. On the west coast a supply of carbonated drinks, adequate for the community, was condemned because flood waters had forced silt inside the bottles even though they were capped.

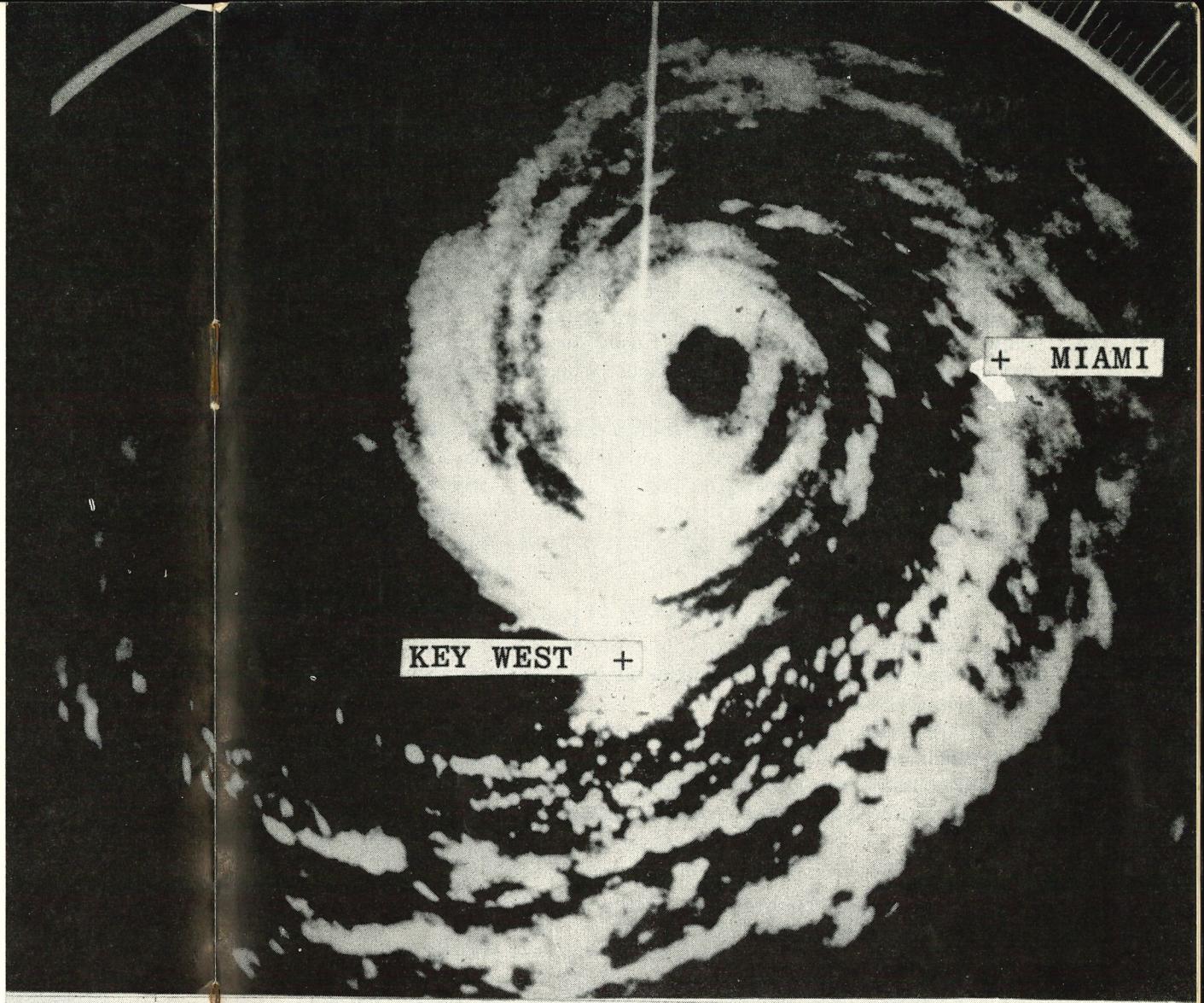
STEAK ANYONE?

Restaurants and grocery stores were not allowed to open for business unless inspections had been made by local, state or Public Health Service



A ONE-EYED CYCLOPS!

A hurricane is a cyclonic storm moving counter-clockwise with a speed of six to 15 miles an hour. In the center of the round moving mass is an "eye." From the fringes of the circle to the "eye" winds will vary, according to the intensity of the storm, from 75 to 150 miles an hour. In the "eye" there is a small area of comparative calm. After the first half of a hurricane has passed, persons untrained in the ways of tropical hurricanes may venture out only to be caught by the full force of the second half of the storm. Due to the hydraulic pressures of waves and tides, most of the damage comes from water forced ahead by high winds. Duration of the storm is usually from four to eight hours. Old-timers claim that hurricane danger exists from the first full moon in August to the first full moon in October. The official hurricane watch by the weather bureau begins June 15 and ends November 15.



Radar photograph of Donna as it appeared on the PPI scope of the WSR-57 radar at Key West at 1340 G.M.T. September 10.

PHOTO COURTESY U.S. WEATHER BUREAU

sanitarians. In many instances foods which could be salvaged were donated by owners to the food kitchens. Many a family sat down to a number of excellent steak dinners.

In Dade County over 7000 pounds of food were condemned when light power failures shut off refrigerators and freezers. In an effort to save refrigerator contents it was not an uncommon sight in the Keys, or in lower west Florida, to see deep freezers being hauled by truck to sites where electricity had been restored. Cooler boxes sat in front of filling stations and behind stores. A single house where electricity was restored might have several boxes on the porch.

Rotting food, garbage, debris, animal carcasses, fish, etc., were collected and burned.



Items appearing in newspapers following Donna

ADVERTISEMENTS:

"Salt water soap. Lathers in sea water. Ten cents a bar. Perfect for ocean bathing!"

"Plenty of cistern water available to any beautician and use of our facilities free of charge."

Apt. to rent—"Plenty of water—we have our own cistern."

Room to rent—"Water included for \$10."

"Waterless cream-type hand cleaner."

"Disposable diapers. Selling at discount during present water shortage."

BOXED NOTICE:

"People found looting houses at night will be FOUND THERE the following morning!"

FILLER:

"A saltwater bath followed by an alcohol rub will refresh you and conserve a limited water supply."

HEADLINE:

"Water's On, Y'all Can Take A Bath"



Two months after Donna had visited Florida, the State Board of Health, Division of Health Information, made a routine check to correct mailing addresses of HEALTH NOTES. One of the inquiry cards sent to Marathon returned with this comment: "Very interesting and informative. I kept all copies on file until Donna blew them away."

A SPECIAL PROBLEM

Sanitary disposal of body wastes presented a problem because there was no water or water pressure. People were urged to carry salt water from the ocean for flushing purposes. Owners of septic tanks and cess-pools were given instructions how to deal with waste disposal when these facilities became inoperable because of flooding. In the Keys, the Navy built privies for many of the residents.

RATS

Another health hazard presenting itself in some areas was an influx of rats to high ground. In south Florida 5000 poisoned meat balls were scattered by boat and helicopter in rodent control programs. There were a few snake bites reported when reptiles sought shelter in homes, on venetian blinds or in vehicles. One truck was used three days before a rattlesnake was discovered under the driver's seat. Needless to state, after this discovery great caution was taken before getting into automobiles.

GRATITUDE

It would be almost impossible to report on the work of all the agencies who shared in helping solve the problems Donna left behind her. Here are a few of them:

In Arcadia 6000 persons in three days were given typhoid and tetanus shots while in Dade County eight clinics were established which administered 18,642 immunizations in 20 days. At Everglades City a number of Seminole Indians, from deep in the Everglades, came to the mobile unit and wanted to be immunized. At Islamorada and Marathon local and state health officials administered immunizations at shelters, clinics and even at road blocks set up by police to keep out the curious, looters and "freeloaders" at the food lines. In Naples more than 2000 typhoid shots were administered by the health department officials.

Feeding people in disaster areas is always a problem. In Everglades City two meals a day were served to all comers. Menu: grits and gravy, beans, canned luncheon meat and coffee. The Navy set up a "chow line" in the Marathon Fire Station which was later moved to the American Legion hall when the Red Cross took over. A local restaurant owner supervised the cooking. Islamorada residents were fed at the Methodist Church by the Red Cross.

In Polk County failure of electricity resulted in the condemnation of \$60,000 of frozen foods. In West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale and Miami the Salvation Army held in readiness 77 officers, six canteens and other mobile equipment as well as cots, blankets, food and other supplies. After Donna had passed they moved into the area, bringing this equip-



ment and materials with them, along with 250 gallons of water. The Salvation Army served 9155 meals, aided 6303 persons and distributed garments, shoes, etc., to 12,695 others. In addition, they also served ice, water, sandwiches, soft drinks, coffee and doughnuts to hundreds of people at Fort Myers Beach area, Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Goodland and Marco.

Prior to Donna, information on availability of food from local commodities was given to Civil Defense, American Red Cross, school officials, etc., by the State Department of Public Welfare. Because of the rapid recovery in most areas only 221,378 pounds of the available 828,770 pounds were distributed.

Hospitals in Dade County prepared themselves to care for women six months or more pregnant. Atmospheric pressure, excitement and fear during hurricanes tend to send prospective mothers into premature labor. Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami received 144 expectant mothers. Sixty-six babies were born during the time Donna raged, setting a new hospital record.

Residents whose homes blew away around them were treated for shock. Others received medical care for body cuts caused from splinters of wood, stone and glass when concrete block and frame structures exploded.

Mental disturbances triggered by stark reality of property losses and adjustments still existed five months after Donna's visit. "Hurricanitis," as it was termed by local physicians, resulted from persons being unable

to comprehend the complete destruction of properties, homes and industries for which they may have worked a lifetime. Diagnosis was made on the assumption that some people have general anxieties and fears which are aggravated by occurrences such as Donna. Men and women who stayed during and those who returned after the storm were equally affected. Symptoms were similar to those of nervous exhaustion—insomnia, depression, frustration, vomiting, lack of appetite and stomach pains. A few cases were hospitalized. The cure? Confinement in bed or a complete change of residence for several weeks.

One physician observed that people completely lost their sense of time. Nurses who had been on duty 36 hours without a break, although able to perform their professional duties had no idea what day or hour it was. There was a complete absence of panic. People performed with an instinct for survival and became welded together for a common good. The excellent handling of wholesale immunizations, water pollution problems and removal of debris, carcasses and sewage resulted in low disease incidence.

Leaflets were distributed advising people to boil all drinking water, be immunized at emergency clinics and keep children from playing in sewage-contaminated pools, streams and lakes. Similar pamphlets were dropped by airplane over Goodland and Marco. Loud speakers mounted



in motor vehicles gave announcements of location of clinics in Collier and Hardee Counties. Civil Defense handbills informed citizens when utilities would be restored and the location of emergency water supplies and Red Cross shelters.

The only non-mud-spattered vehicle in the town of Everglades was the mobile trailer clinic loaned by Broward County Health Department. A Broward public health officer and nurse operated the vehicle until relieved by State Board of Health and Red Cross personnel. The clinic was well patronized and even 10 days after Donna 300 persons showed up to receive immunization and medical care.

A Navy helicopter moved traffic from Tavernier to Islamorada.

One nurse at a schoolhouse shelter was glad to see rescue teams for she had moved her 90 charges, half of them children, from classroom to classroom as roofs and walls vanished.

Residents became lost right in front of their homes because all landmarks were gone—signs, shrubbery, trees, etc. Paint was sandblasted from buildings and automobiles by the driving sand.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Gave emergency mass care to 125,000—some for as long as three weeks. They also gave relief to 4648, spent \$1,343,769 in 39 counties for relief expenditures, furnished 1891 families with emergency funds for home repairs, rebuilding or replacement, helped another 1162 families purchase furnishings or other essential needs, and helped 200 families with funds to restore businesses or other occupational needs. A similar number were aided with funds for hospital bills or medical care.



FLORIDA HEALTH NOTES • 92

STATISTICS

Fatalities, sickness and injuries from Donna were comparatively slight when it is considered that she swept through an area where a third of Florida's population of 4,951,560 reside. There were only 151 cases of injury or illness, 1643 minor injuries and 122 persons hospitalized. This fortunate outcome is attributed to accurate and timely warnings, prompt and efficient preparations of the government, welfare, civil defense and public health groups and the cooperation of the general public. On the other hand, forestry, property and agricultural destruction amounted to nearly \$350,000,000. A Florida Civil Defense Agency survey indicated that 1844 homes were destroyed, 3253 received major damage and 30,818 sustained minor damage. A total of 710 farm buildings were demolished with major damage to 1454 and minor damage to 2754. Losses to business firms, dwellings, industry and public and private utilities were over \$250,000,000. Citrus losses were equivalent to 15 to 20 million boxes of fruit blown from the trees. At least half of the grapefruit crop lay on the ground. Peanuts, about 60 per cent harvested and stacked for drying, were damaged by rain. Replanting of most vegetable crops and acreage was necessary. Florida's agricultural losses were estimated at \$50,000,000.



93 • FLORIDA HEALTH NOTES

Florida has been lashed by hurricanes before—often with resulting death and destruction. The 1928 hurricane that brought death to more than 300 residents in the Lake Okeechobee area, and the 1935 hurricane that blew away a railroad work camp on Matecumbe Key and killed a number of employees, are still remembered throughout the nation.

Today, a far-flung hurricane watch for the entire nation has been established. Residents are given adequate warning to prepare for the blow. Relief agencies have adequate time to muster their forces. Added to this are round-the-clock services of our health departments which drastically reduce the dangers of illness and death from injury or disease.

FUTURE PLANS?

Possibility of having several mobile trailer clinics for the multiple purpose of immunization, medical care and water pollution study laboratories.

A ready supply of "Precaution Handbills" to include the following information:

1. Boil drinking water at least five minutes or add one-half tea-spoon iodine or other bleaching agent to one gallon of water.
2. Stock larder shelves with containers of water for drinking and cooking, a Sterno Stove, canned vegetables and meat, flashlight and batteries.
3. Open and close windows in house to equalize pressure of winds outside and possibly use an attic fan.
4. Board up windows and doors with hurricane shutters. Local carpenters are usually experienced in putting them up fast. Many shutters are precut to be fastened on quickly.
5. Areas immediately adjacent to water are always potentially dangerous. Locations two or three blocks from the water and in the center of town are much safer.
6. Listen to radio and television broadcasts or read newspaper weather reports. The latter are from ships at sea, weather stations and from Navy Hurricane Hunter planes which fly into the storm and send location reports.

Possibility of having tight, uniform building codes for all structures including trailer homes. It is noteworthy that homes built on stilts, such as the Indians erect, are not too often damaged by winds and high waters.

FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

1217 Pearl Street or P. O. Box 210

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

HON. FARRIS BRYANT

Governor of Florida

BOARD MEMBERS

John D. Milton, M.D., President
Miami

T. M. Cumbie, Ph. G., Vice-President
Quincy

F. P. Meyer, D.D.S., Member
St. Petersburg

Sullivan G. Bedell, M.D., Member
Jacksonville

W. S. Horn, D.O., Member
Palmetto

WILSON T. SOWDER, M.D., M.P.H., State Health Officer
Albert V. Hardy, M.D., Dr. P. H., Assistant State Health Officer
C. M. Sharp, M.D., Assistant State Health Officer

Division of Health Information
Elizabeth Reed, R.N., B.S.

Bureau of Entomology
John A. Mulrennan, B.S.A.

Division of Personnel
Miles T. Dean, M.A.

Bureau of Sanitary Engineering

David B. Lee, M.S., Eng.
Sidney A. Berkowitz, M.S. Eng.

Ass't. Director

Division of Water Supply

John B. Miller, M.P.H.

Division of Waste Water

Ralph H. Baker, Jr., M.S., San. Eng.

Division of Nutrition
Mary B. Deaver, M.S.

Bureau of Preventable Diseases

James O. Bond, M.D., M.P.H.

Division of Tuberculosis Control

Dwight Wharton, M.D.

Division of Radiological and

Occupational Health

Edwin G. Williams, M.D.

Division of Epidemiology

Division of Veterinary Public Health

James E. Scatterday, D.V.M., M.P.H.

Bureau of Vital Statistics

Everett H. Williams, Jr., M.S.

Bureau of Dental Health

Floyd H. DeCamp, D.D.S.

Bureau of Narcotics

Frank S. Castor, Ph.G.

Bureau of Laboratories

Nathan J. Schneider, Ph.D.

Bureau of Mental Health

Wayne Yeager, M.D., M.P.H.

Melvin P. Reid, Ph.D., S.M. Hyg.

Ass't. Director

Bureau of Special Health Services

Simon D. Deff, M.D., M.P.H.

Division of Hospitals & Nursing Homes

Division of Chronic Diseases

J. E. Fulghum, M.D.

Bureau of Maternal and Child

Health

L. L. Parks, M.D., M.P.H.

E. L. Flemming, Ed.D.

Ass't. Director

All counties in Florida have organized County Health Departments



A novel mail-order honor-system ticket sale plan working for the first-ever Old Naples historic homes tour is ~~working~~
says Mrs. Dean Earl, tour chairman for the Collier County Historical Society.

"We had never had a historic homes tour before and we weren't sure about the amount of interest there would be," Mrs. Earl said. "We have found that a lot of people want to visit and view the odd houses in the place where Naples began. We have also had fine cooperation from owners and residents of the houses and from society members who will ~~aid~~ in the tour."

The walking tour will be from 1 to 5 p.m. on Easter Sunday, April 10. It will make a 10-block swing from the old hotel site at the end of 12th Avenue South down to the pier and back to end at the Old Naples Building, home of the Colonial Cheese and Gourmet Shop where refreshments will be served. Participants will receive a map of the tour to guide them and society members will be on hand at the seven homes and in other areas to explain their background and history.

To get tickets out ~~as wide a range~~ ^(of residents) as possible they were mailed direct to members of Naples civic associations on the honor system with a request that payment be made or the tickets not used.

"We've had a ~~good~~ good response so far and more ~~payments~~ payments are still coming in," said Mrs. Helen Pardee, society secretary. "We have had a few complaints from people who were sent single tickets and wanted more, ~~and~~ ~~were~~ ~~had~~ ~~would be~~ ~~done~~ who sent a check but didn't sign it."

More

George Huntoon, president of the society, said there is great interest among Neapolitans, many of them newcomers, in the people who were ~~the~~^{first} to come and the city they ~~had~~ founded.

"We hope that this interest, supported by the facts we have already uncovered in preparing for the tour, may create a continuing interest in the old Naples area and help in its preservation," Huntoon said. "This would be the best kind of living history for Naples, ~~and it's too early~~."

There was also interest in the tour from Bill McGowan, Naples Chamber of Commerce executive vice president, who sees it as an answer for visitors who want to know more about Naples but don't ~~quite~~ know where to start.

"This is the sort of 'Naples image' event which ~~can~~ could fill a real need for the city and the Third Street area," McGowan declared. "It is something that could be a great help to visitors and might lead to a permanent historic walk ~~marked~~ be with historic markers that would ~~make it~~ self explanatory without being obtrusive or out of character for our low-key community."

McGowan offered any aid the chamber could provide and placed a small block of tickets on sale in the office at Fleischmann Boulevard and the Tamiami Trail. Tickets have also been placed at the Beach Club Hotel, ~~the~~ Cove Inn, and Colonial Cheese and Gourmet, plus the Barnett Bank of Naples and First National Bank. The \$5 ticket covers the tour and the refreshments at the end.

FORT MYERS NEWS-PRESS

FORT MYERS, FLA., TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 13, 1960

Thomas A. Edison Said
"There is only one Fort Myers
and 90 million people are
going to find it out."

5c DAILY. 10c SUNDAY

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 sparing 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 140 m.p.h. and Block Island, R. I., had gusts to 125 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 2A)

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 our 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.

News-Press Index

Amusements	SA
Bridge	7A
Classified	SB-9B
Comics	3B
Crossword	4A
Deaths	2A
Editorial	4A
Financial	6B
Hollywood	7A
Society	8A-9A
Sports	1B-2B
TV	7B

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 Keys before the storm.

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 7½ foot tidal wave—and the Naples water supply is unsafe because of breaks in the mains.

The hurricane tide, which Dr. Lawrence said was "shoulder-high in 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.

Counties 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 shot. Serum was being sent here by Dade and Broward County

(Continued on Page 2A)

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 crush of business abated and the office was lagging only about one hour.

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

New Hurricane May Develop

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 designated 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, Okaloosha, 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, could not 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 6A)

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.

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 crush of business abated and the office was lagging only about one hour.

"We got some extra help 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

from a beating administered eight days ago by Hurricane Donna, were warned to be alert for later bulletins and stand by for quick action if hurricane development should take place.

Thunderstorms were reported throughout the Leeward and northern Windward Islands. The storm, which will be known as Ethel if it develops into a hurricane, is just north of the path taken by Donna.

Gilbert Clark, Miami weather forecaster, also said a low pressure trough in the Gulf of Mexico was under observation. He said dry, cold air in the area would likely prevent development of a hurricane. The trough was likely to move across southern Florida, however, bringing rainfall which would aggravate present high water conditions.

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

from a beating administered eight days ago by Hurricane Donna, were warned to be alert for later bulletins and stand by for quick action if hurricane development should take place.

Thunderstorms were reported throughout the Leeward and northern Windward Islands. The storm, which will be known as Ethel if it develops into a hurricane, is just north of the path taken by Donna.

Gilbert Clark, Miami weather forecaster, also said a low pressure trough in the Gulf of Mexico was under observation. He said dry, cold air in the area would likely prevent development of a hurricane. The trough was likely to move across southern Florida, however, bringing rainfall which would aggravate present high water conditions.

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

from a beating administered eight days ago by Hurricane Donna, were warned to be alert for later bulletins and stand by for quick action if hurricane development should take place.

Thunderstorms were reported throughout the Leeward and northern Windward Islands. The storm, which will be known as Ethel if it develops into a hurricane, is just north of the path taken by Donna.

Gilbert Clark, Miami weather forecaster, also said a low pressure trough in the Gulf of Mexico was under observation. He said dry, cold air in the area would likely prevent development of a hurricane. The trough was likely to move across southern Florida, however, bringing rainfall which would aggravate present high water conditions.

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

from a beating administered eight days ago by Hurricane Donna, were warned to be alert for later bulletins and stand by for quick action if hurricane development should take place.

Thunderstorms were reported throughout the Leeward and northern Windward Islands. The storm, which will be known as Ethel if it develops into a hurricane, is just north of the path taken by Donna.

Gilbert Clark, Miami weather forecaster, also said a low pressure trough in the Gulf of Mexico was under observation. He said dry, cold air in the area would likely prevent development of a hurricane. The trough was likely to move across southern Florida, however, bringing rainfall which would aggravate present high water conditions.

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

from a beating administered eight days ago by Hurricane Donna, were warned to be alert for later bulletins and stand by for quick action if hurricane development should take place.

Thunderstorms were reported throughout the Leeward and northern Windward Islands. The storm, which will be known as Ethel if it develops into a hurricane, is just north of the path taken by Donna.