



Death, Destruction

Remains of houses are piled up at a bridge over Rapid Creek just west of Rapid City, S.D., Saturday. A rescue survey area where earlier an elderly couple were removed from the rubble pile and hospitalized. The toll mounted by the minute as rescue operations went on. (AP Wirephoto)



The body of a woman lies among debris in Canyon Lake Park in western Rapid City Saturday morning following massive floods in the Black Hills area. The park, the pride of Rapid City, was destroyed with the caretaker's house in its center among those washed away. (AP Wirephoto)



Flooding Rapid Creek washed hundreds of cars and mobile homes to strange places in Rapid City. Other homes also were heavily damaged or swept away, some ended up in the middle of the city golf course. The flash flooding followed several inches of rain in the surrounding Black Hills area. (AP)

Devastating South Dakota Flood May Claim 600

By TERRY WOSTER
Associated Press Writer
RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities listed 150 persons known dead and more than 500 missing Saturday after heavy rains in the Black Hills sent flash floods tearing through Rapid City and surrounding areas during the night. Walls of water, described at times as three to four feet high, battered houses and swept away cars, mobile homes and bridges. The devastation was compounded by landslides, explosions and fires triggered by ruptured gas lines. Bodies of victims were reported found in trees, cars and along the edges of ditches as the waters began to subside and a fog set in over the region.

Sheriff Glenn Best said Saturday that he believes only a third of the dead have been found. He made the comment when the death toll stood at 105. In Washington, President Nixon declared the flood-ravaged region of western South Dakota a disaster area, making emergency federal aid available for the recovery effort. The President was described as deeply distressed by the loss of life.

Maj. Gen. Duane L. Corning, state adjutant general, estimated after an inspection of the area that damages from the disaster would run between \$80 million and \$120 million. Hundreds of residents of this city of 33,000 were left homeless. Mayor Don Barnett of Rapid City requested military police to patrol the area after reports of looting at a west side shopping center during the day. Police Chief Ronald Messer said he could use 1,500 military policemen to aid his department.

Gov. Richard Kneip, who arrived Saturday, said rescuers "were picking up bodies all across the southwestern part of the city." Corning also said there was general flooding in the northern Black Hills area of Lead, Deadwood and Sturgis. In Kansas City, the National Weather Service said the torrential downpour which dumped about seven inches of rain on the city Friday night and early Saturday was the result of weather conditions that are unlikely to occur more than once in a hundred years. Ninety-nine of the deaths were in Rapid City, authorities said. Six were in the little village of Keystone, southwest of Rapid City near the Mt. Rushmore National Memorial. In Rapid City, raging waters swept cars down streets while homes and mobile homes were scattered and splintered in the flood areas. Bridges were washed away and many roads closed. Authorities feared for hundreds of campers. They said it might be weeks before all the bodies were recovered. The downpour also inundated the town of Sturgis, 35 miles northwest of Rapid City. The Meade County sheriff's office reported six inches of rain and several unconfirmed deaths. Keystone also was reported heavily damaged by the rains. Communications with the small town were severed. Hundreds were left stranded and homeless by the floods. They were being housed in schools, churches and private homes.

Dawn Brought Flood's Horror

Editor's Note: Wire Editor Jerry Mashek of the Rapid City Journal was covering reports of high water and flooding late Friday night in the Rapid City area when he was caught in the middle of the disaster that struck the western South Dakota resort area. This is his report.

By JERRY MASHEK
Rapid City Journal
RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The horror of the flood that had torn life out of the Black Hills didn't really strike me until dawn Saturday. It started about 8 p.m. Friday with a call from Journal photographer Don Polovich. He had heard reports of high water along Highway 16 in the Hiesega area west of Rapid City. It began as sort of a lark. I knew it was raining hard, but no one had prepared us for the wild night... and morning ahead. There didn't seem to be any real danger. The water from Rapid Creek was running across the road in some places on the way up, but our two pickups made it through in good shape. But it was starting to look more serious. As we headed toward Hiesega, the rain really hit. We pulled onto the shoulder and watched in amazement as a small stream spilling from the hillside turned into a four-foot-wide torrent. We turned back at this point, but were halted along with a number of other vehicles by a three-foot wall of water spilling across the highway. We were stuck, but it seemed the water would subside in a couple of hours. Then we heard that a vital bridge was out and it would be days before traffic was moving normally again. We decided to walk back to town, shooting pictures on the way. Rapid Creek, 40 feet to our right, normally is clear and placid. But now it sounded like a freight train passing in the night. It must have been 150 feet wide in some places. We could hear people trapped

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Napalm Bomb Dropped in Error Sears Girl's Back—and Memory

Editor's note: An Associated Press photograph of an unidentified little girl running naked down a road after being hit in an accidental napalm strike was featured in American newspapers. Associated Press correspondent Carl D. Robinson traced the girl to a Saigon hospital.

By CARL D. ROBINSON
Associated Press Writer
SAIGON (AP) — Nine-year-old Phan Thi Kim-Phuc is recuperating in a Saigon children's hospital but the memory of being caught and burned in a napalm strike at Trang Bang two days ago lingers in her memory. Her mother and father are nearby, comforting her with love, food and medicine. Their eyes are red from tears over the death of their 2-year-old son who died later the same day from severe burns.



RECUPERATING AFTER ORDEAL — Nine-year-old Phan Thi Kim-Phuc has burning clothes stripped off, above, by U.S. and South Vietnamese troops after she and other children were victims of misplaced napalm bombs dropped by a South Vietnamese plane. She suffered painful burns on back. Below, she is comforted by her mother in a Saigon hospital Saturday. (AP)

"This war is so brutal," says Pham Thanh Tung, an unemployed former district official. "If only the children had stayed in the pagoda." His eyes start to fill with tears. He stops at mid-sentence as he starts talking bitterly about the bomber pilots. Tung looks down at his daughter. Bandages cover burns on her back, arms and legs. She is too young to feel bitterness, only pain. "I feel better now," Kim-Phuc says. "But I still have a fever and some pain." There were eight children in Tung's family. They lived in a house near the Cao Dai pagoda on the eastern edge of Trang Bang, a district town, 25 miles northwest of Saigon. Earlier in the week, bands of North Vietnamese slipped into the town, triggering fighting with government troops. "The fighting was 500 meters away," says Tung, "closer to the market and on the other side of the road. The family was safe and there were still militia troops at an outpost nearby." The children went off to play near the pagoda, leaving the parents at home. Nearby there was fighting and planes were dropping bombs onto the enemy positions. The South Vietnamese bombers came in for a run, Tung explains, and it was so close the children scrambled into a trench outside the pagoda. Soldiers warned the children they had better leave and together the group started running down the road. Another South Vietnamese bomber flew over and its canisters of napalm splattered sticky balls of fire across the road. The napalm set Kim-Phuc's clothes afire. She and her friends kept running, screaming at the flaming horror and searing pain of her back. They reached nearby government positions where soldiers poured water over her burns. Later, her mother came down the road, carrying her seriously burned brother. A soldier stopped the mother and draped his rosary around the boy's neck. The child died a few hours later.

McGovern Says Wallace Might Be Offered Spot

SILVER SPRING, MD. (AP) — Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., visited George C. Wallace in the hospital Saturday and told newsmen afterwards he would not rule out a spot in the administration for the Alabama governor should McGovern win the presidency. McGovern spent about 45 minutes with Wallace and reported that the governor's "greatest difficulty right now is pain from the stomach wounds, not the spinal problem." Wallace was gunned down at a political rally in Laurel, Md., May 15. His internal organs were damaged and one bullet, which is still lodged against his spine, is responsible for the paralysis in his legs. McGovern said he told Wallace that the latter's views and those of his supporters at the Democratic National Convention would be heard.

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U.S. Planes Keep Pressure on North

SAIGON (AP) — Smoke and flame lowered over North Vietnam's coast from exploded oil and coal facilities after raids by American planes over a 300-mile strip, U.S. officials said Saturday. Fighter-bombers struck more than 300 times Friday from the demilitarized zone north to Haiphong, dropping bridges, demolishing warehouses, sinking barges and crippling other targets, spokesmen reported. In addition, the U.S. Command said giant B52s bombed both sides of Dong Hoi, 40 miles north of the DMZ, where war materials meant for the offensive were stored in depots. Carrier-based Navy pilots reported a bright orange fire ball, followed by six secondary explosions and six fires, engulfed much of the Hong Gai coal storage area, 23 miles northeast of Haiphong. Heavy black smoke rose 3,000 feet over shattered buildings, they said. In a strike a mile from the port of Thanh Hoa, Navy fliers said a petroleum depot was rocked with 10 secondary blasts, sending a 2,000-foot smoke column into the air. B52 strikes also were launched near Saigon in the pre-dawn hours. They were the closest to the capital since the 1968 Tet offensive. The B52s attacked 23 and 27 miles from Saigon where a series of clashes has led to concern of possible preparation for a move against the South Vietnamese capital. Military sources said North Vietnamese troops fought government units Friday at Moc Hoa, south of the Cambodian border about 50 miles west of Saigon. There was no immediate casualty report. It apparently means that North Vietnamese are probing to find the weakest spots on Saigon's western and northwestern flanks, the sources reported. A top Vietnamese military source predicted that if the weather holds the 64-day siege at An Loc, 60 miles north of Saigon, would be broken by Monday. Government troops are pressing up Highway 13 toward An Loc. Field reports said fighting continues around An Loc, but two days of helicopter shuttles have evacuated at least 250 South Vietnamese soldiers wounded during the past weeks.

Kissinger Assures Japan It Remains Policy Anchor

TOKYO (AP) — Henry A. Kissinger assured Japan Saturday that it remains the anchor of American policy in Asia and said Red China does not plan to use force to take over Taiwan, the Chinese Nationalist stronghold. Kissinger, President Nixon's chief foreign policy adviser, made these points in the first of a three-day series of meetings with Japan's top politicians and business leaders. He dined with Prime Minister Eisaku Sato, and afterward the two went into private talks with only an interpreter present. Before them was a wide range of political and economic issues. Both Kissinger and Sato appeared in good spirits as they emerged from the four-hour conversation. Sato told newsmen the meeting lasted longer than expected "because we found ourselves like-minded." Today's Chuckle Don't worry if the Internal Revenue Service takes the shirt off your back. They've got a bureau of some kind to keep it in.

Hot Dog! CHICAGO (AP) — Bernice Burson of Reedsport, Ore., and Wayne Liao of Cleveland were married Saturday, exchanging the traditional "I do's" and later "No onions." They held their wedding reception at a hamburger stand. The newlyweds, graduating seniors of the University of Chicago, and 20 of their closest friends turned up at a favorite spot of their courting days—a McDonald's drive-in. "We didn't do it because it's different, but for the people who attended," said Liao. "Standing around eating food you like is more conducive to celebration than the standard banquet with long tables." Toasting was done with strawberry milkshakes.