

WATERS OF SAN GABRIEL REACH HIGHEST MARK EVER KNOWN

typed from the WC Sun article of 1921 (this was on microfiche and some parts where unreadable)

DETAILS OF THE FLOOD

The property damages throughout the county resulting from the unprecedented rains of Thursday night, Friday and Saturday morning cannot now be ascertained. Any attempt at approximating the losses would be a guess predicated upon more or less conflicting reports, but that the total will run well beyond a million dollars appears to be certain. Known (passes?) to bridges, culverts and road (beds?), not including railroad losses which are considerable, will exceed half a million dollars. Steel bridges which have stood thirty years' floods are gone. Smaller structures and culverts everywhere are lost.

Many residences in different parts of the county were washed from their foundations some completely wrecked, others only partially so, and in many instances all the personal effects of families either wholly lost or damaged beyond further use. Numerous barns and outhouses were washed away or partially wrecked. Many fields of corn and cotton on low lands were stripped clean. Two or more gins were wrecked and (much?) cotton in bales washed away however a great many bales of cotton were afterwards found.

LOSS OF LIFE

The most serious loss of life is reported in the Taylor section. By Tuesday (6?) dead bodies, mostly Mexicans, had been recovered. Two unidentified white children were drowned in Bruhy below Taylor. The bodies of four negroes have been recovered. Others loss of life is (reported?) for this section.

AGED COUPLE DROWNS

Mr. And Mrs. J. H. W. Cobb, who lived on the Emsy Williams farm in the Yarbrough neighborhood were drowned. Their bodies being found quite a distance from their house stood on a small branch tributary to Dry Berry's Creek. The body of the old gentleman was found on the creek and that of his wife some distance away in the field. They were buried Monday afternoon in the Green graveyard near Yarbrough.

An old gentleman, a stranger, driving a pair of jacks to a (back?), was seen to disappear in a slough near the Lemons old home just east of the Berry's Creek Bridge. Nothing further has been heard of the old man. It is regarded as certain that he was drowned.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

Several school houses and church buildings were destroyed or partially wrecked. The beautiful Jim Hogg school house on the North Gabriel above Georgetown was washed away. The Circleville school house was also destroyed. A cyclone at Weir damaged the walls and roof of the splendid brick school building and damaged the churches. The Christian church as Jonah was washed across Milam branch and the Baptist and Methodist churches suffered considerable damages.

NORTHTOWN

Northtown, just across the two steel bridges from Georgetown, was in immanent danger of being washed away. The stock of groceries of Earl Cobb, housed in a store building, near the North Gabriel Bridge, were moved to the Primitive (?) Baptist church as a

precautionary measure. The houses of Fred Kimbro and W. P. Harris were wrecked, Kimbro losing everything. John Kimbro lost a large portion of his household goods and the household goods of J. A. Montgomery were submerged when his house was flooded. John Connell, Jeff Jeffries, Euel Kimbro and John Montgomery lost barns and other outhouses.

The old power house of the Georgetown Water & Light Plant was destroyed, and a rent house on the Treuthardt farm, occupied by John Channes was washed away, the family losing everything. The A. C. Treuthardt family living on the south bank of the Gabriel moved out Saturday morning, partly by wagon and partly by boats manned by several young men from town. The Old Settlers' grounds are a complete wreck, many campers getting away Friday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Pat Googlett, who were camping there and caring for Mr. Will Williams' bathing and park facilities, had to leave in their bathing suits Friday night. The pecan groves down the Gabriel, including the fine pecans on Prof. R. F. Young's farm were destroyed. A small house in front of the old power house and belonging to the city was turned around.

Up the Gabriel from Georgetown a number of barns were flooded. The Hank Hunt barn was partially wrecked. The Milligan home the Uncle Bob Baker old place was inundated and as before stated, the Jim Hogg schoolhouse near by was totally destroyed. A rent house near the causeway and belonging to W. A. Jenkins, was washed away. The barn and outbuildings on the Prof. W. A. Smith farm were lost, and a small rent house washed from its blocks. The Charles Contesso house, near the Houty Crossing, was partly wrecked.

BERRY 'M CREEK

The home of Dock Sudduth on Dry Berry, in the Strickland Grove community, was washed from its foundation and turned around. His barn and feed stuff were ruined. Henry Nmarr in the name community, lost 18 acres of corn, his barn inundated and feed badly damaged. Water stood in his house.

The Berry's Creek gin was practically destroyed. Of 19 bales of cotton lost 17 have been recovered. Sixty bales of cotton washed away at the Andice gin, but 48 (#?) afterwards were recovered. The residence on the Mann Estate farm just north of Berry's Creek bridge was washed away.

Down the Gabriel from Georgetown a house on the J. W. Gray farm was destroyed, families on this farm, Jesse Chambers and Claud Malone, lost practically everything. Malone losing his teams also.

Frita Frederickson, just north of the river from Busby Crossing, lost 30 bales of cotton, an auto and a Delco light plant. A new bungalow cottage on Mrs. Wileman's farm at Mankin Crossing was washed nearly across _____ southeasterly. The barns and _____ can house also washed away.

South of Georgetown, a farm house on the Mrs. John Lindell farm, occupied by Charlie Johnson, was moved 20 or more feet by a cyclone and damaged between \$1,000 and \$1,500. The Wm. Palm barn, in the same neighborhood, was unroofed some large trees were uprooted and cotton badly damaged or destroyed.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Cooke were twice driven from their home. The Will Cooke two-story just north of the road east of Mankin Crossing – Friday night, Mrs. Cooke being forced to walk barefoot, across a soggy field to a neighbor's. The water stood

about five feet in the Cooke kitchen. They sustained considerable loss in furniture and personal effects.

WEIR

The damage at Weir was largely the work of Friday afternoon's cyclone. The depot, one or two churches and the school building were badly damaged. A barn on the Tom Emerson place was destroyed, one mule killed and another crippled so bad it had to be killed. Other minor damages are reported including an auto house on Carl Brady's farm. Other auto houses and windmills were destroyed.

JONAH

Jonah was hard hit. In addition to the loss of several residences and the wrecking of numerous others, every home in the village was inundated and nearly every family's personal effects were more or less ruined. Losses are reported as follows: W. H. Persy lost home, barn stock, and everything except drug store. Clarence Waggoner, home swept away, things all lost. Hardy Mott, lost home and effects. Henry Sextro, lost rent house. H. W. Wright, home swept 100 yards and household goods ruined. Ed Leggett's house swept 30 yards and left in street. A. J. Rhodes' auto house swept off blocks. C. N. Rowlett's barn washed 200 yards, then turned over and wrecked. H. M. Gattis' house swept from blocks and furniture damaged. A. J. Rhodes' restaurant moved 40 yards. Every house and store in town was flooded. The Christian church was washed across the Milam branch and each of the other churches damaged. The Lon Mulhall old place was washed from its blocks. Quite a lot of cotton was lost from the yard. Bob Hicks succeeded in drifting one of his bales into the Methodist church and in tying another with a rope. Hicks' barn was badly damaged and a negro house on his farm destroyed.

At Circleville, the Stearns gin, the school house and the steel bridge across the Gabriel were destroyed. Other serious losses there are reported.

LIBERTY HILL LEANDER

The damages at Liberty Hill and Leander were confined mainly to roads and stock. The steel bridge on the Hopewell road went out and the causeway on the Leander road was ruined. Lee Mather lost 50 head of sheep out of 81. Quite a number of head of stock all along the Gabriels were lost.

At Georgetown, where the two Gabriels converge, the water spread out over a large part of Northtown, swept the Old Settlers' grounds in a mighty flood, and breaking over the high banks on the mouth, spread out over the fields to the south. The steel bridge across the North Gabriel was destroyed and mighty trees passed from North Gabriel to the South Gabriel between the two bridges. Luckily the south bridge stood.

Reports of other property damages from different sections could not be verified for lack of telephone connections, the lines in every direction except south being down. Many fields of corn and cotton were subsequently washed away, others seriously damaged.

GENERAL FLOOD NOTEN

Prof. R. F. Young reports a total of 15.05 inches of rain at Georgetown during the flood of Friday and Saturday. Mr. A. T. Irvine at Berry's Creek reports 17.25 and that

the outer tube of his guage ran over at one time; hence the rainfall there was an excess of 17.25. Taylor reports 23 inches.

Mr. Rhodes, a merchant at Jonah, found a three hundred pound hog in a bed in his house during the flood.

Bob Hicks drifted a bale of cotton into the Methodist church at Jonah. It is not known whether Bob will donate the cotton to the church, or whether Mr. Rhodes appropriated the hog.

Neal Baird's home was a refuge for about 30 Jonah people who were rescued during the inundation of the village.

It is said that every chicken in Northtown was drowned.

Many dead horses, mules, goats, sheep and cotton floated down the Gabriel during the flood, but one goat was seen riding a log, dexterously managing to keep on top whenever his crude lifesaver rolled over.

It is also reported that a man was seen at several points astride of a tree. He rerrily waved at people along the way and seemed to be enjoying his perilous ride. He was last seen at Johan.

The Cyclone, which struck Weir Picked up Mr. Carl Brady's auto house and carried it away, but left his Ford car unharmed.

Numerous wagons were turned over in the roads, but one traveler had the novel experience at Mankin's Crossing of having his wagon pitched five or six feet in the air then dropped back into fine bath, all right side up, occupants unharmed and team ready to pull.

ROAD AND BRIDGE DAMAGES

Half a million dollars will hardly cover the damages to the road beds, loss of bridges and culverts throughout the county. As nearly as can be ascertained the bridge damages are as follows:

Precinct No. 1, J. N. May commissioner, steel bridge across North Gabriel at Georgetown completely destroyed; two Berry's Creek bridges, one on Florence road, one on the Jarrell road destroyed; at Mankin Crossing washed away; steel bridge at Joanna ___ J ___ bridges ___ Brushy south at ___ across Brush south of Hutto completely destroyed; causeway on Brushy at ___ completely destroyed. Approaches to new concrete steel structure on new highway ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ out, ___ Branch bridge just east of Georgetown ___, small steel bridge on ___ any(?) approaches or apparatus (?) in bridges at ___ east at ___ numerous small bridges in the ___ and hundreds of ___ washed away, great damage to road beds sustained.

Precinct No. ___ ___ ___ commissioner. M ___? Bridge on Brushy Hill Hopewall road on south ___ destroyed. Causeway on Leander Liberty Hill road, South Gabriel, wrecked. Approach on north end of Brown Bridge across North Gabriel washed out, also at Gabriel Mills. Approaches to bridge at Florence. Mr. Casheer estimates that one third of culverts in the precinct lost, including causeway across Brushy east of Leander partly destroyed.

Precinct No. 4-J. C. Abbott, commissioner. Every bridge on the Gabriel in precinct No. 4 was destroyed except the Easley bridge and it was partly wrecked. Everything on the Mustang Creek is out except the bridge just south of Taylor; 98 percent

of the wooden cuverts in the precinct are gone. Rice's Crossing, Beyersville and Post Oak land steel bridges are out, and part of Cheek's Crossing Bridge is gone. The iron bridge across Cotton Wood on the Taylor Rice's Crossing road was wrecked. A large section of this precinct has not been heard from as to specific damages, but Mr. Abbott says the losses are sure to be numerous. Travel from the section northeast was impassable by any means up to Monday. One man walked from Hare to Taylor Monday, a distance of 15 miles, to get his mail. Damages to the new highway consists mainly to mud washed on the road bed. The road is open from Taylor to Hutto and Pflugerville. Many houses along Brushy Creek were washed from their foundations and a few demolished.

Mr. Abbott says farmers and others throughout the precinct are at work with their teams assisting in repairing the roads and if good weather continues he expects all roads to be travelable by the end of the week. Offers to help free of cost to the county, came on every hand, groups of farmers taking their own roads and beginning to repair them.

Precinct No. 3, Sam Moore, Commissioner. Five iron bridges are lost. These are: The Rudisill bridge on Willis Creek, Polk Springs bridge, Willis Creek, the Friendship bridge. Also on Willis Creek. The Walburg bridge on Possum Creek is reported out. More than 50 percent of the wooden structures are lost or out of commission. Mr. Moore says he has not heard from some sections, but everything indicates great losses. He says men on every road have volunteered and all roads will be travelable by the end of the week. Mr. Moore says that his precinct could not stand the expense of the repairs necessary for immediate use of the roads but the people come forward in large numbers in every neighborhood and are rendering invaluable assistance.

Quite a number of residences were washed away, others partially wrecked. The loss of livestock is heavy. A new bungalow across the creek from Friendship stands at the junction of Willis Creek and the Gabriel with no known owner. Where it came from is a mystery.

Frank Wilcox lost 20 head of mules and horses and many head of cattle. Buck Robertson lost heavily in cattle and teams. Everybody in the lower reaches of the creeks and Gabriel lost heavily. Frank Wilcox found a stray mule, alive, in the forks of a tree. David Young lost three negro tenants, a family. With their bodies was found that of an unknown negro man.

FLOOD REPORT FROM FLORENECE

Former County Commissioner W. A. Custard of Florence was in town Tuesday. Mr. Custard reports two rent houses washed from their foundations and practically wrecked. These were the John W. Atkinson and John Jackson homes. The seed house of the J. H. Stuart kin was washed two yards and gins damaged. The Shaw gin lost all but five tons of coal from \$800 worth it had just purchased. The gin office was washed away.

Mr. Custard reported that by noon Monday citizens had repaired the approaches to the concrete bridge, and all entrances to town were open by noon. Sixty men carried rock in their arms for the work on the causeway. The flood damages at Florence is attributed largely to the choking of the causeway by a straw stack, which washed down to the bridge, causing the flood waters to spread out and take the abutments to the bridge.

Mr. Custard says half of the culverts on the Florence, Georgetown road are out and about two thirds for the Florence section in general.

85 KNOWN DEAD ARE FOUND IN LOWLANDS

Taylor Texas, September 11 – The death list in the catastrophe which visited the lowlands of the San Gabriel River, revised late tonight showed the following: Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Cobb of Georgetown. Mr. and Mrs. M. I. Brown of Redville gin. Lee Brown, their son. Arnold Jackson, aged 4 of Hogan Crossing, Brushy. Texas Jackson, aged 7, Brushy. Twenty-two Mexicans on J. F. Bowers' farm on San Gabriel. Two unidentified bodies at ____ Bridge. Unidentified man at Lawrence Chapel. Two unidentified children, Lawrence Chapel. Twenty seven reported dead at Youngstown. A Mexican, one unidentified white man and one negro in San Gabriel. Five Mexicans, Alligator Creek. Two negros at Hutto. Negro girl at Hutto, drowned on Humphreys' farm. Five Mexicans on Mustangs, below King's farm. Total 76.

Since Friday night the only mail service has been the M. R. A. south of Elgin and Smithville. This service was improved today by Postmaster Treis of Granger and Postmaster Brunner of Taylor, establishing auto & boat services. The Taylor mail is carrier to the San Gabriel River, where the bridges are gone, conveyed by boat to the other shore, and then carried by auto to Granger, where the Katy train service has been restored to Waco and points north. Similar service will be established between Taylor and Thrall and Taylor and Hutto on the east and west today.

NATION RECORD NET

The greatest 24 hour amount of rainfall measured 23.10 on the 9th and 10th. This is the greatest amount in any town by a four-hour period shown in the automatic register ever recorded in the United States. The previous authentic record was held by Alexandria, La., 21.5 inches, which fell June 15 and 16, 1880.

ROAD REPAIRS PROGRESSING

Sunday morning, after the downpour of rain had ceased and the waters of the streams had partly subsided, Georgetown found herself cut off from the world by both dirt and rail routes. Commissioner Joe N. May put forces at work connecting up the various lines of communication by land. Two forces went out from Hutto, one on the Round Rock road and one on the Georgetown road. Another went to work rebuilding the bridge across Smith Branch near the C. J. Gustafson home, while still two others were at work north of the San Gabriel River. Wednesday afternoon the temporary structure across the North Gabriel River had been completed and traffic opened to Florence by way of the Rocky Tollow route. Traffic was uninterrupted to Liberty Hill, Round Rock and Leander. Repairs had been made on the lower Round Rock road by Monday noon and large settlements in that section were given a route to the city. The abutments on the concrete bridge across Smith Branch, near the Poor Farm were washed out; this also was repaired by Monday noon and the Bell Gin section was given communication with town.

RAILROADS HEAVY LOSERS BY FLOODS

Georgetown has experienced all the inconveniences of an inland post office of afar route days since Friday of last week. The last Katy train was the Texas Special Friday afternoon, which was stopped here with its nearly 200 passengers. The passengers finally get sent to Austin by service cars this week but the train is still here.

KATY LOSSES

The M.K.& T. tracks across the county from Bartlett to Austin by Georgetown suffered heavily. Between Granger and Georgetown the bridges over Possum Creek went out. The Katy Lake Bridge stood but about 1700 feet of piling bridgework and embankment went out. The rails being torn and twisted like wire. Still further toward Georgetown and immediately north of town at the first bridge 1500 feet of embankment was washed out and with it eight or ten sections of piling bridges destroyed. The Iron Bridge held. South of Georgetown to Pflugerville a nine section piling bridge is out between Pflugerville and Sprinkle in Travis County about a mile of embankment and tracks went out. The roof of the Weir depot was blown off. The line from Granger south in Taylor was badly crippled, the bridge and tracks at Circleville being swept out.

Service over the line from Houston to St. James was destroyed Wednesday. A standby train was put on between Austin and Georgetown Thursday. It will be sometime next week before the track is open for service north on the Katy.

B. & G. N. LOSSES

The last train to Georgetown over the B. & G. N. came last Friday. The Chandler Branch Bridge and about 100 feet of trestle work went out, as did a small bridge beyond that, what is known as Onion Creek. The Brushy Bridge at Round Rock stands, but the approaches were damaged and washed out of line. There was considerable damage on the main line from Round Rock east with a bad washout at Round Rock. The line is open from Round Rock to Austin now service on the section was re-established Wednesday. The first train out from Georgetown to Round Rock is expected to move today. Probably by Sunday or Monday. The track will be open from Austin to Taylor east, we are advised by the local agent. J. D. Jinkins. Mr. Jinkins says the G. & N. wires are still down and it has been impossible for him to get much information.

H. & T. C. LOSSES

The H. & T. C. out of Austin to Leander, Liberty Hill and west to Llano and Lampasas has been out also since Friday. The main washout between Leander and McNeal according to the best information obtainable occurred at the Judge A. M. Walker ranch between Leander and Cedar Park. The bridge over the Gabriel between Leander and Liberty Hill stood, but the approaches were washed out of lane. Other damages occurred to this area.