

# It Was Wet, Wet, Wet



## Mid-County Mops Up In Wake of Storm; Soquel Hardest Hit

*Floods*  
Mop-up operations in silt-laden Soquel continued this week, as merchants and residents splashed their way through the remnants of the worst flood threat since 1955.

A 45-day drought ended with a vengeance last week, with mother nature dumping over six inches of rain in the mid county in less than 36 hours.

Soquel creek started a rapid rise early Thursday morning. It reached a peak shortly before noon, surging to less than a foot below the Soquel bridge, and flooding over into buildings on the banks.

Trailers in a park in the center of Soquel were hastily pulled out, as the muddy water swirled around, threatening engulfment. Companies hauling the lumbering mobile homes were headquartered as far away as Salinas. A small bulldozer was hastily pressed into service to haul some trailers out.

At about 12:45, the Soquel volunteer fire department was put on alert. Meanwhile, sheriff's units, and the highway patrol had sealed off all entrances to the community.

The water fell quicker than it rose, starting at about 1:00 p.m. The level fell over six feet in two hours, leaving tons of silt on sidewalks and streets.

Bars in Soquel did an on-again, off-again business. First they closed, with the bar stools up. Then, as the threat of inundation, at least by water lessened, the stools came down, and business boomed.

It was a holiday for Soquel school children—classes were dismissed in the early afternoon, to give bus drivers and parents a chance to get students home before roads became impassable.

The bridge leading onto Treasure Island drive, and the "flats" of Rio Del Mar was momentarily threatened, as pounding waters from Aptos creek carved into the bank near the bridge.

Cars traveling mid-county roads sometimes gave the appearance of PT boats, as they whizzed through sheets of water. Slides blocked off many roads.

The county road department rushed a crane to Soquel Thursday, to pull out logs which threatened to turn the bridge into a dam. The crane remained in Soquel briefly, then was rushed to Capitola, when another log-jam appeared to be building

**BEGINNINGS OF LOG JAM**—Spectators in Soquel watch as the Soquel creek rises higher and higher under the bridge. Logs floating down the creek threatened to pile up under the bridge, turning it into a dam. A crane from the county road department was finally used to pick the logs and branches out of the water, and allow free flow under the bridge. The creek rose to about a foot under the bridge, before falling. (Photo by Baker.)



**FLOOD'S AFTERMATH**—Debris litters homes and streets in Soquel, in the wake of last week's storm. The job of cleaning up the layers of silt is a big one. Boxes, picnic tables, and other miscellaneous debris were jumbled together by the water. Driftwood hunters had a fine time this week at mid-county beaches, picking up intricately-shaped pieces of wood washed down rivers by the force of the water. But this type of flotsam and jetsam isn't so picturesque. (Photo by Baker)



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**BUSINESS AS USUAL?**—Unidentified passer-by stands on sandbags in front of the Soquel post office, to transact business. Soquel merchants and residents quickly sandbagged entrances, when the muddy waters threatened engulfment last week. Fortunately, the sandbags weren't needed, as the water fell just short of a disastrous flood. (Photo by Baker)

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The county road department rushed a crane to Soquel Thursday, to pull out logs which threatened to turn the bridge into a dam. The crane remained in Soquel briefly, then was rushed to Capitola, when another logjam appeared to be building up. The logs thundering down the creek were big ones — some up to two feet in diameter. The bridge shook repeatedly, as each log hit.

The approach to the jetty presently under construction at Twin Lakes wiped out by bottled-up water. The jetty itself received a severe pounding from wind-tossed surf.

Ocean foam, which looked like soapsuds, was sprayed over the road leading past the harbor construction site.

In Rio Del Mar, water flooded the intersection of Alta and Clubhouse drives temporarily, and Aptos volunteer firemen were alerted by Fire Chief James Dorei. The firemen kept watch over bridges spanning Aptos and Valencia creeks. Aptos firemen were alerted shortly before noon, about 45 minutes before Soquel volunteers.

On the San Andreas road in La Selva Beach, water had piled up under the railroad overpass, causing drivers abandon use of the road.