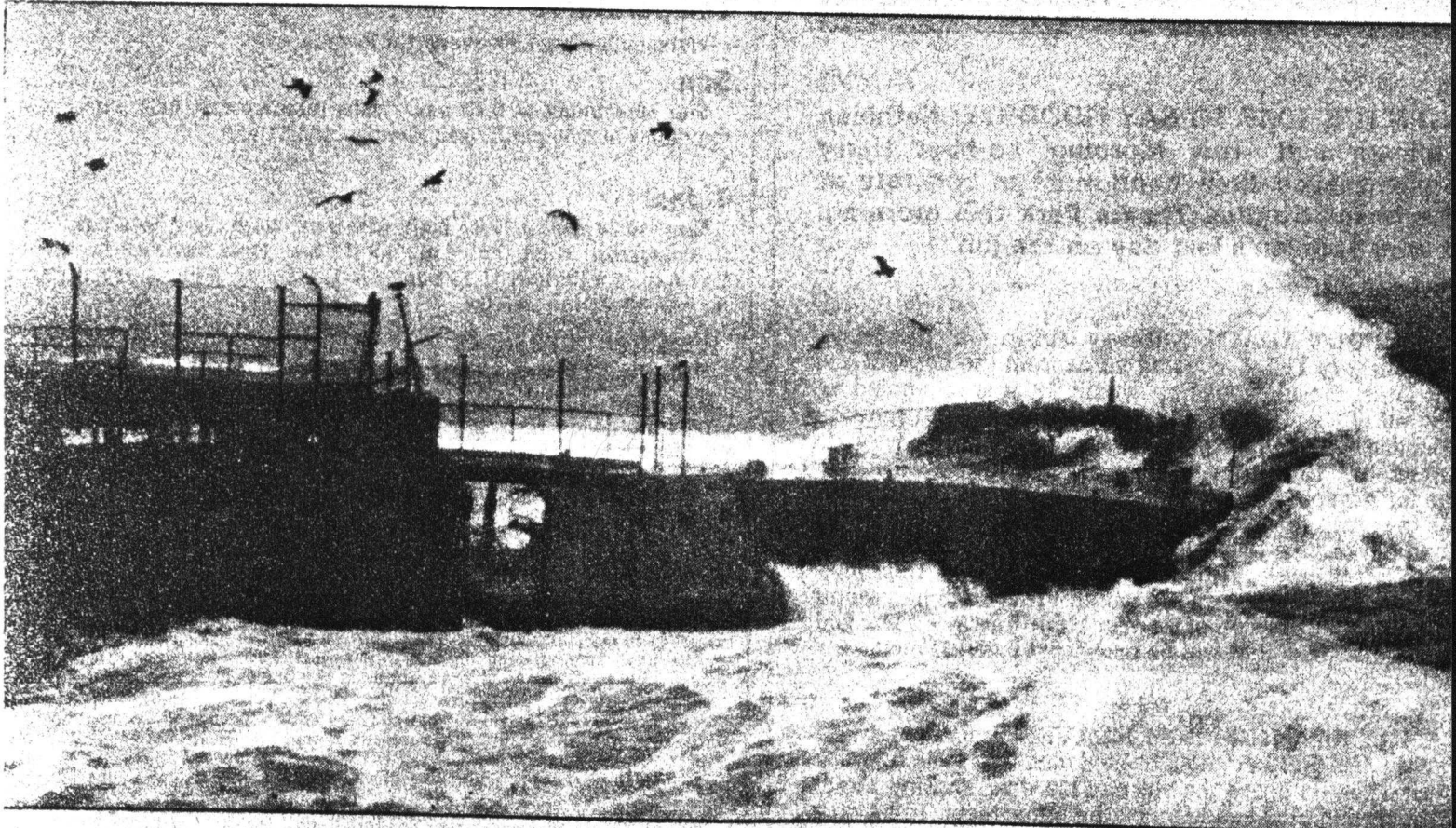


more rain, more havoc



Waves crashed over the cement ship at Seacliff State Beach during the height of the storm.

Mike McC

One dead when tree hits car

by BOB SMITH
AFF WRITER

High winds and heavy rain lashed the Pajaro Valley yesterday afternoon, blocking roads and inundating large areas of the Pajaro Valley and mid-Santa Cruz County to darkness.

One person died on Trinkling Creek Road in Lompico when a tree fell on a car. Clair Day, 56, of Felton, was killed. Her 16-year-old son, whose first name was not released, was treated at Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital and released. The Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner's office was still investigating the accident last night.

Four other people were injured in storm-related mishaps — none seriously, according to county Emergency Services Coordinator Nancy Gordon.

Watsonville police, who worked overtime yesterday, reported six non-injury, rain-related car accidents between 1 and 6 p.m.

Wind gusts of up to 50 mph



A tree fell into a house on East Lake Avenue near College Road.

Mike McC

were recorded at the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor yesterday afternoon.

Watsonville received 1.2 inches of rain in a 10-hour period from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. yesterday. Aromas had received 0.8 inch by 4 p.m., Corralitos 0.95 inch by 1:30 p.m.,

and Soquel 0.78 inch by about 7 p.m.

The National Weather Service forecast a 60 percent chance of showers today with a chance of thunderstorms. The rain probability drops to 50 percent tonight

with temperatures in the 50s. Winds on Monterey Bay will be gusty to 25 knots today from the west.

The county's emergency dispatchers fielded 136 calls for help during the height of the storm. See STORM page

STORM

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storm. They logged 43 fire and burglary alarm calls, 18 traffic accidents, 14 homes damaged — mainly by falling trees — and three mobile homes with roofs blown off.

At the Trade Winds mobile-home park in Capitola, several carports lost their roofs during the storm, park manager Bill Hansen said.

Flooding was reported in pavilions at the Pacific Garden Mall, and Caltrans was clearing mud slides on Highway 152 outside the Watsonville city limits.

In Watsonville, crews from the city's public works, parks and water departments worked steadily through the day, clearing flooded storm drains, sawing up downed trees and blocking off streets until PG&E crews could clear downed power lines, public works Superintendent Embert Knauss said last night.

Knauss described most of the flooding as "normal" but added that the high winds stripped leaves, bark and branches from trees and they, in turn, clogged the drainage inlets.

Harkins Slough Road was flooded last night and heavy flooding was reported on Freedom Boulevard and Pennsylvania Drive during the height of the storm.

A tree that fell on a power line near the Cat's Pause snack bar at East Beach and Lincoln streets in Watsonville was blamed for causing a power outage lasting from 11

a.m. to 7:30 p.m., police said. Neighborhoods from Main Street east to Hushbeck Avenue were affected.

Another tree, this one a 30-foot-tall eucalyptus planted adjacent to St. Patrick's Church, fell and hampered traffic between Rodriguez and Main streets until public works employees cleared it.

Traffic signals were out most of the day on Highway 152, Main and Beach streets and Beach and Union streets. At Arthur and Main streets and at Martinelli Street and Freedom Boulevard, the wind twisted the overhead traffic signals.

Highway patrolmen convoyed cars over Highway 17 during part of the afternoon commute yesterday afternoon, and Caltrans crews warned motorists of slippery and icy conditions on both Highway 17 and Highway 152 over the summit.

PG&E spokeswoman Kersti Bronk said about 16,000 homes and businesses were without electricity early yesterday afternoon but the number had dropped to about 6,700 by 4 p.m. Most of the trouble spots were in the Watsonville, Aptos and Boulder Creek areas, she said.

Parts of Aptos and Watsonville were without power for most of the afternoon. Power was restored in the Aptos Village-Rancho del Mar area at 4:30 p.m., ending a three-hour blackout.

Power was still out last night in the Corralitos area, as well as portions of downtown Watsonville.

A spokeswoman for Cabrillo College said all Friday afternoon classes were canceled because of

power outages.

Pajaro Valley Schools Superintendent Jim Baker said about half the district's schools were blacked out at some time yesterday. Telephone service was out to many of the schools during the day and district administrators were forced to use two-way radios to talk with many of the school principals.

School officials turned to local radio stations during the afternoon to warn parents in the Eureka Canyon-Corralitos area that they would have to find ways of getting their children home. Roads were blocked above the 400 block of Browns Valley Road and above the intersection of Rider and Eureka Canyon roads, Baker said.

The California Department of Forestry station in Corralitos said last night that Eureka Canyon Road was blocked to all traffic 12 miles above Browns Valley Road.

Baker said many of the school buses used alternate routes to get students home. One bus had seven windows knocked out on San Andreas Road when a tree limb fell on it, Baker said. No one was injured.

Baker had been scheduled to be interviewed about emergency management by a special film crew from the governor's office a

11 a.m. yesterday — just as the storm was beginning to vent its full force on the Pajaro Valley. The interview was canceled as Baker went to work on the storm problems and the film crew headed back to San Jose.

High winds caused some problems for telephone repairmen throughout the Central Coast area yesterday. Pacific Bell area manager Jim Bower said last night that there were about 200 trouble calls in the Santa Cruz County-Monterey Bay area yesterday. The normal daily load is between 40 and 50, Bower said.

Eight- to 10-foot-high waves rolled across Monterey Bay but there were no reports of damage along the coastline to either the state beaches or beachfront homes.

Reg. Pay.
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