

# Storm Damage Believed Light In SC County

Storm - swept Santa Cruz received comparatively light damage, although wide-spread power failures due largely to falling trees inconvenienced nearly all sectors of the northern county.

Most of the damage in the area was caused by falling trees—but no injuries were reported.

Recreation and Park Director Carl Bengston reported the wharf easily withstood the angry towering walls of water flung at it by the storm. He expressed surprise at the crowds that thronged the area heedless of the storm.

The Yacht Basin project was "under control", according to Port Director Ralph Ring. He regarded the storm as a test of the construction to date and reported that the jetty and the retaining walls stood up exceptionally well. The giant crane used on the jetty was beached as a precaution.

Water Director Weston Webber reported little difficulty because of the storm. The Newell Creek Dam had risen almost two feet in a 24 hour period.

The brunt of the storm damage seems to have been borne by PG&E whose lines were downed by falling trees and flying debris. Flickering lights, interrupted radio and TV programs, and loss of the use of electrical appliances reminded stay-at-homers of the fury and power of the storm.

While the city of Santa Cruz had power outages, it was the unincorporated area which suffered from power interruption. Ben Lomond residents reported being without lights for twelve hours. The Rio del Mar area spent Saturday afternoon without current, as did most of Soquel. Capitola reported an "on again, off again" situation — "mostly off."

A religious gathering of 500 in Mount Hermon proceeded serenely lead by the light of oil lanterns plus some flood lights loaned by the Felton Fire department.

By and large fire departments in the area reported few difficulties. The Felton department was keeping its eye on the fast-rising river (five feet in 24 hours) but Assistant Chief C. A. Deardorf felt there was no immediate danger.

Pacific Telephone company had the storm damage pretty much under control according to Supervising Foreman R. F. Hanson who reported 85 to 90 per cent of the telephone system in operation throughout the storm.

Widespread interruptions of Telescription service was reported.

Among other losses suffered:

The Homer T. McCrary home in Davenport was completely destroyed by fire. The nearest neighbor remained completely unaware because of the poor visibility. Damage was estimated at about \$40,000.

The Jerome Simkins Turkey Ranch, Bonny Doon, lost a 30 ton granery when the wind just picked it up and turned it over. The grain was ruined. Loss estimated at \$7000 to \$8000.

The Villa Fontenay, Vine Hill road and Highway 17, lost large portions of its roof when winds measured at 98 miles per hour inflicted damage estimated at from \$2000 to \$3000.

The Spiegelberg \$40,000 home in the Huckleberry Woods area of Boulder Creek, had to be propped up when water loosened banks behind it collapsed.

The Max Duskin home on Highway 9, Boulder Creek, had a storm created river running right through it. The local fire department had several men digging trenches to divert the stream.