

Weather Report

Temperature for 24-hour period ending at 8 a. m. today — Maximum 56, minimum 34.

Monterey Bay Area — Fair through tomorrow, slightly cooler tonight; northerly winds, 8-15 m.p.h.

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL-NEWS

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5c Sunday and Daily Excepting Saturday

27

Flood Pictures
In Today's
Sentinel-News

EIGHTEEN PAGES

US Signs For Aid To Santa Cruz

Knight Says Soquel Flood Damage As Bad As Yuba City

Flood damage to Soquel's business district and homes along Soquel creek was approaching the half-million dollar mark this morning in a survey of the mud-caked and littered area.

Governor Goodwin J. Knight, Civil Defense Director Val Peterson, city and county officials were in Soquel about noon today, on their first stop in the tragic flood wrecked area within the county.

They were greeted by a general sight of mud covered streets which resembled a Western movie set; about two blocks of business houses which are battered and broken and in many cases closed.

Percentage-wise Soquel suffered just as much if not greater damage than that dealt to other communities, including Santa Cruz.

About 10 of the businesses are closed with no possibility of operating until their stock is renewed or their buildings are torn down and rebuilt.

The governor had a chance to see that the town is virtually cut in half. Both ends of the Soquel bridge are out on Soquel drive. The western half of the business district suffered damage because of a tremendous log jam that forced the water to divert most of its torrenting force into the business houses.

Governor Knight was quoted this noon, as he surveyed the mess: "This looks almost as bad as Yuba City."

Peterson has been dispatched to California by President Eisenhower with a virtual "blank check" to aid rehabilitation.

In local action, Kenneth Izant led a group of Soquel citizens yesterday before the board of supervisors to request the immediate demolition of the Soquel creek bridge.

Izant said this morning that the bridge is a hazard and the people do not want it to create the same situation during future high

deep; Charles Ashton said they would be out of operation for another week and a half.

Thelma's Gift shop: Thelma Hodgson estimated \$2000.

Soquel Shoe store: Henry Decker reported \$4000. He said he will give about 400 pairs of shoes to the Salvation Army.

The Children's shop: Helen Bowen estimated \$3000.

Hamm's Fountain and TV store: Russell Hamm said it would take about \$3000 to restore both places.

The building housing Charlie Strong's barber shop, Ed Hopkins' Target bar and Bob Hussey's cafe was wrecked. The building will have to be torn down and rebuilt. Damage estimate, \$20,000.

All equipment and stock inside these buildings was completely destroyed. Hopkins crawled to the top of the building during the flood until it started to break up. He was rescued.

Eddy Peretto's Variety store suffered about \$18,000 damage. He is setting up temporary tables to continue business.

The dentist office of Dr. Pierre Marquess was wrecked through-out. All equipment has been removed. He could not be reached for comment.

Soquel Postmaster John Molinet said the post office damage came to about \$5000 for equipment and records and another \$5000 in stamps.

W. S. Rhoades market: About \$5000. He said he had to throw out 500 pounds of fresh meat.

Izant's hardware: About \$25,000 in damage, mostly to stock in the basement. Back in business.

Offices of Dr. Philip Karleen and Dr. Nels H. Anderson: From \$4000 to \$5000.

Bill Finta's drug store: About \$10,000. A plate glass window was pushed out and the floor buckled. Workmen were busy this morning repairing the floor. Open for business.

Fire Chief Ray Negro estimated that the fire department suffered

Massive Cleanup Job Is Well Under Way



With remarkable morale and a real comeback spirit, Santa Cruz merchants are cleaning

out their damaged goods, emptying flooded basements of ruined goods and getting back

into "business as usual." Here the city street crews clean up

Pacific avenue this morning as police kept traffic out of the area.

One Million Dollars In Government Help Is Assured City

Governor Goodwin J. Knight today inspected Santa Cruz' flood-smashed business district, declared it "the worst business damage of any of the stricken areas" and signed a million-dollar agreement for initial federal aid to the area.

Knight signed the pact with Philip D. Batson, regional administrator for the federal civil defense administration, in the back seat of a highway patrol car that took the governor on a tour of northern county sections hit by the flood.

Knight and Federal Civil Defense Director Val Peterson landed at Watsonville airport shortly before 11 o'clock this morning with a party of top state and federal officials and were whisked off on the tour by local officials.

"What I've seen is the worst business damage of any of the stricken areas," said Gov. Knight as he surveyed the waterlogged basement of Leask's department store on Pacific avenue.

"Damage to the business district was more extensive here than in Yuba City or Eureka," continued Knight, who visited the northern flood-racked counties yesterday. "Yuba City had greater residential damage but Santa Cruz was terribly hit in the business area."

"But the courage, fortitude and optimism of the people here is something to reckon with and I know from what I have seen today that Santa Cruz will come back."

"We in the state government will do everything to help in restoring streets, buildings, bridges and in aiding the businessmen, farmers and residents who suffered losses."

The million-dollar pact for federal aid is only a starter. Administrator Batson indicated.

"It is an initial allocation subject to whatever is necessary in the way of additional funds," Batson said. The money will go for clearance of debris and restoration of streets, bridges and

Meantime, the task of pulling Santa Cruz from the throes of the worst devastation in the city's history gathered momentum.

Army engineers had opened an office here last weekend to keep tabs on the developing situation and four other federal agencies were expected to set up offices here before Saturday.

These were federal civil defense, housing and home finance administration, small business administration and the federal national mortgage administration.

Donald Hipkins, deputy administrator of the small business association, said in San Francisco that loans in flood-hit areas could run to 10 million dollars. The SBA program will be run in co-operation with the Red Cross relief program.

Hipkins said the SBA office to be established in Santa Cruz today or tomorrow will be the first in any of the flood areas.

A federal survey team was expected to reach Santa Cruz to confer with local officials at noon tomorrow. The team will assess the damage to such public facilities as roads and bridges and make plans for restoration in accordance with priority objectives established by local officials.

City Water Superintendent Weston Webber said voluntary water rationing will end tomorrow. The return of additional coastal sources to the system will permit use of water for the massive clean-up job facing Santa Cruzans, Weber hoped.

County Health Officer Dr. Russell Ferguson said water still

All Misplaced
Are Located

Federal Housing

Contract Let For
Bidding

waters. "That bridge has been a hazard since 1922, the year it was built," he said.

The board turned the problem over to the U. S. Bureau of Engineers and the DA's office. It was to be brought up at a meeting with the engineers this afternoon.

The board told the group they would stand a good chance of getting their wish if the army engineers can include blowing the bridge as a part of the general channel clearance project.

Technical problems involved would be the danger of damage to surrounding buildings when the dynamite is set off. The bridge will probably take some heavy dynamiting to clear it away.

Probably the worst hit in the Soquel business district was Willbanks Brothers' Red and White grocery store. The entire interior is in shambles; Fred Vellutini's meat market is gone. Jack Willbanks estimated that the damage would run between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

He said it would be more than a month before they would be open for business.

The Cunison Brothers garage on Soquel drive was all but destroyed. Jack Zimmer agreed that the damage would figure out close to \$75,000.

Tons of equipment within the garage, about a block from Soquel creek, were shoved to the front of the building, a two-inch gas main was ripped apart and bubbled freely "registering on the meter" for about 10 hours.

The Soquel lodge on the creek's edge lost all seven of its cabins and a considerable amount of damage was dealt to the lodge. John Pawlack had just purchased the property last June. Damage was estimated between \$75,000 and \$100,000. Some of the cabins have disappeared. The others are twisted and collapsed.

Heroes were many during the devastating flood which roared through town Thursday night and continued its havoc until early Friday morning.

Much praise was given by many merchants to the Soquel Volunteer Fire department under Chief Ray Negro. Six or seven businessmen who rushed to their businesses to save what they could were marooned.

Several were picked out of trees, a few in the attics of their stores, and one off the top of Cunison Brothers' gas pump.

On a store by store survey this morning along Soquel drive here are the roughly estimated damages given by the proprietors as they shoveled mud from their floors and cleared their stock:

Maddock's bakery: \$10,000; 200 flour sacks thrown out. Water came up under floor three feet

about \$2000 damage to the fire truck and building which is now empty.

Parson's Liquor store: Damage about \$10,000. Arlo Parsons lost another \$15,000 on his home and more on his car.

Van Horn Butane service: Howard Shaffer, manager, said damage came to \$8000.

Monterey Bay Water company: J. A. Harris put damage figures at \$4000 which include inside and outside equipment.

Red Cross has set up relief headquarters in the Soquel branch of the County bank. A Red Cross mobile unit was passing out coffee this morning to workers.

Beatrice Hiebel's Floral shop is closed. And Alta Farlow's Beauty spot suffered about \$1200 damage.

About 30 homes were badly damaged along Porter and Walnut streets.

Water Seen Tomorrow For Wash-Up

Water for the giant wash-up of Santa Cruz will be available tomorrow, Water Superintendent Weston Webber announced today.

The repaired Laguna creek pipeline and Liddell spring are feeding water into the Bay street reservoir at a rate of 3.6 million gallons daily.

Majors creek was back in the supply system sometime today, adding another three-quarter million gallons daily, Webber said.

Consumption in the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today was 2.4 million gallons. That figure will jump when Webber releases citizens from the voluntary rationing in effect since last Friday.

Webber said the ban on using water for purposes other than urgent domestic uses will be relaxed effective tomorrow morning. By then an adequate supply will be on hand and coastal sources assure a continued abundance.

Chlorination of water has been intensified at the Bay street reservoir, which held 22.9 million gallons at 8 a.m. The extra chlorine is being added as a health measure but residents still must boil drinking water until further notice.

Dryers are still turned on machinery and motors at the flood-hit river pumping plant. With the dam and intake structure also damaged, water department personnel and army engineers are preparing emergency measures to get water from the city-owned wells across the river from the plant.

The army has arranged for shipment here of powerful pumps which can raise water from the wells. The water will have to be piped directly into the distribution system on the east side of the river because the line connecting the wells with the plant was knocked out.

Power for the pumps will be supplied by the now-drying pumping plant. It will be several days before the plant can be put into operation.

This morning the chamber of commerce slate of misplaced persons was cleared, Ralph Ring, secretary-manager, reported at noon.

He said that since Friday, when the chamber established the information center for misplaced persons, approximately 500 persons reported as missing have been located.

The chamber of commerce staff worked with the American Red Cross in tracking down the people who were reported as missing due to the flood.

"We scoured the neighborhoods," related Ring, "And didn't stop until we heard they had been seen."

FLOOD KILLS 50
Bogota, Colombia (AP)—A flash flood which caught its victims asleep was believed to have taken 50 lives in Huila department (state), official reports said today. Eight bodies have been recovered. More than 40 persons are missing.

Technicians To Study City's Needs

Moving to lend assistance with housing problems in the flooded areas of northern California and western Nevada, a team of federal housing, community facilities and redevelopment technicians will tour the Santa Cruz damaged areas and confer with Santa Cruz city and county officials tomorrow on the community's needs to restore its battered and ruined housing facilities.

The specialists in housing will be led by M. Justin Herman, regional administrator in San Francisco for the housing and home finance agency, and Mr. Joseph Cassidy, executive officer for regional liaison of the federal housing administration who will arrive here tonight from Washington, D.C., to represent the FHA in its emergency operations.

Herman in addition will bring representatives of the other con-

stituent agencies—public housing administration, urban renewal administration, community facilities administration and federal national mortgage association.

Herman said the tour and conference are being held at the request of City Manager Robert Klein and will be accompanied by Gus Wahlberg, chairman of county board of supervisors, Assemblyman Glenn Coolidge, Mayor Tom Polk Williams Sr. and Les Ley, chairman of the county planning commission.

The conference is expected to be attended by representatives of the home building industry, lending institutions, realtors, city engineer and other community officials from Santa Cruz and representatives of Soquel and other unincorporated communities affected by the flood.

"We are fortunate since we

Of Trees, Debris

San Francisco (AP). — Col. J. A. Graf, San Francisco district engineer for the U.S. army corps of engineers, today announced award of a \$20,000 contract to the Raisch Paving company, of San Jose for removal of fallen trees and other flood debris from the San Lorenzo river within the city limits of Santa Cruz.

find ourselves in a disaster situation that we have the experience gained in the New England flood reconstruction last August to draw upon in setting up our facilities and services in Santa Cruz," Herman said today.

"The approach we intend to take in Santa Cruz is that of the individual householder and city official who has a very specific immediate problem and wants a specific and clear answer as to how he may get help in solving that problem."

In the Knight-Patterson party were Congressman Charles S. Gubser, Congressman Hubert Scudder, whose district includes hard-hit Humboldt county, Lieut. Gen. Robert Young, commanding general of the Sixth army, Assemblyman Glenn Coolidge, State Senator Donald Grunsky and a number of top-ranking officers of the army engineer corps.

The group left the airport in a special bus escorted by highway patrol cars and headed for their first stop, the battered town of Soquel.

"This is terrible, Fred," said the grim Knight as he shook hands with Sentinel-News publisher Fred D. McPherson Jr. a few yards from the useless bridge over Soquel creek. "It looks as bad as Yuba City."

Entering Santa Cruz via the freeway, the party inspected the damaged Riverside avenue bridge, the San Lorenzo boulevard area, the crushed Garfield-Burnett sector where four persons are known to have lost their lives, and crossed to the downtown business district via the Water street bridge.

The group toured Front street and Pacific avenue, stopping to climb down the stairs to Leask's flood-shattered basement.

The next stop was the city council chamber at city hall, where the visitors were fed a sandwich-and-hot-coffee lunch.

The unexpected extent of the damage they saw along their route extended the inspection timetable and it appeared likely at press time that Knight and Peterson would have to return this afternoon to the airport and fly out to keep other commitments.

"The indomitable spirit of Californians, already mapping their plans for a spirited comeback after the flood disaster which struck northern California, makes one proud to be an American," Lt. General Young told The Sentinel-News today while inspecting flood damage in the community.

"Everywhere you go you hear the pumps bringing the area back to normal as fast as possible. It's really an encouraging sound."

As far as could be determined, the million-dollar initial aid pact signed by Knight and Batson was the first such grant in the state.

Knight and all the members of his party were visibly affected by the destruction wrought by the rampaging San Lorenzo river last Thursday and Friday.

Knight repeatedly shook his head in awe.

Assemblyman Coolidge said he would take advantage of the ripe opportunity by broaching to the governor the matter of calling a special legislative session in 1956 to consider a state appropriation for purchase of land and rights of way for the proposed army flood control plan on the San Lorenzo and Branciforte creek.

During the two-hour tour that preceded the luncheon meeting in the council chamber, city and county officials continually briefed the governor and his party on details of the flood that took at least five lives and left another dozen persons on the "missing and presumed dead" list.

There was no serious fear of disease outbreaks as long as residents continue to observe precautions laid down by the county health department.

Half the stock of one small food-freezing plant in the southern end of the county was condemned but power failures occasioned by the flood were not prolonged enough to harm other freezer stocks, Dr. Ferguson said.

Inspection of flood-touched restaurants was continuing and licenses were being restored as soon as eating places passed muster.

Dr. Ferguson warned citizens not to pilfer canned goods and other foodstuffs condemned and discarded at the city dump and at an emergency dump on Bay street.

All major drug companies issued blanket statements declaring that flood-damaged drugs would be replaced without question or quibble.

Street Superintendent Don Bruce said he has enough men and equipment to continue clearing debris from streets and key facilities.

Fifty pumps and 75 men, plus tons of additional equipment, were thrown into the clean-up job by the street department.

Bruce said he hopes for help from the army engineers in repairing two Branciforte creek sewer crossings lost during the flood. The engineers also will be requested to aid in plugging an undetermined number of "ruptures" in the tunnel leading from the sewage treatment plant to the sewer outfall.

Street department personnel were still making repairs of minor damage to the outfall line off West Cliff drive at David way.

Police blocked off the area between Center and Chestnut streets this morning so street crews could work unhampered on clearing that area. Another section—as yet undisclosed—will be barricaded off tomorrow to keep out sightseers while the workers attack the mud and debris.

Traffic Sergeant McKinley Reed appealed to motorists to honor the barricades and stay out of blockaded areas.

William Reed, national representative heading Red Cross disaster operations in the Santa Cruz area, said evacuees were receiving emergency food and clothing at a \$1000-a-day clip.

Seven feeding centers had been set up, some in publicly-owned buildings and other in mobile kitchen vans.

Nine national and 50-100 local volunteers were handling the Red Cross effort.

Read said 195 families had applied for Red Cross aid thus far with the ultimate total expected to reach 500. That 500 will not represent all families who suffered flood damage but only those unable to regain their pre-flood standard of living without outside aid.

Read said persons who suffer losses or need help in the following categories should register Red Cross relief—for home restoration or repairs, furniture placement, food, clothing, tools and supplies, supplies and small business ration.

Soquel Flood Waters Wreck Building



Here is the inside of what was once the Target bar in Soquel. The waters from the So-

quel creek totally ruined the building which also included a barber shop and a cafe. At the

far left is the remnants of a Happy New Year banner for the scheduled New Year's Eve party. The owners of the build-

ing plan to tear it down and build anew. Damage was estimated at \$20,000.

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