



THE 1954 FLOOD in Toronto created by Hurricane Hazel caused about \$24,000,000 in damage. This hotel and service station in Mount Dennis, a western suburb of Toronto, were partly submerged by water as the Humber River overflowed its banks. (CP Photo)

Hazel Brought Inconvenience Which Built Up To A Tragedy

By R. J. ANDERSON

TORONTO (CP)—High above the Caribbean an airline pilot noted a "disturbance" of more than normal proportions.

It was Oct. 6, 1954, Toronto, far to the northwest, paid no heed. Hurricane Hazel was spinning but she was 2,500 miles away and no one imagined she would come this way.

Hazel moved up fast from the Caribbean and appeared to be blowing herself out in the United States. By Oct. 15 she was only a rowdy, ruinous storm but behind her was a trail of death and destruction—300 killed in Haiti, 29 in New England. Winds at one time were 130 miles an hour at the centre.

She pushed a rain front into southern Ontario. That met an eastbound cold front. Said a weather office observer at the time:

"It was like two huge pitchers of water crashing against each other, shattering and dumping their contents."

The heaviest in recorded history—fell on the Toronto area. It was as if a small lake suddenly had been dumped into the west-end Humber River Valley.

RIVER ROSE

Destruction was sudden, tragic, complete. Eighty-two persons died. Whole streets were swept away. Damage in the Toronto area alone was placed at \$24,000,000.

Other parts of southern Ontario were hit but the Humber Valley took the brunt of the blow.

Toronto was a city where "hurricanes never happen" the night of Friday, Oct. 15, 1954. Rain was falling, so heavy that thousands of downtown workers took three and four hours to reach their homes in the suburbs. But it was only an inconvenience.

Tragedy was building up in the west. Rain during the preceding 48 hours had saturated the Humber Valley. The hard clay shallow bowl in which the Humber River rises absorbed the first heavy rainfall and the river rose, with misleading slowness.

Then the clay could absorb no more water. Eight inches rain came down on Friday, Oct. 15. It poured instantly into the river channel and the Humber normally placid, went wild. In the early hours of Saturday morning the flood descended upon the sleeping western suburbs on its 70-mile course to Lake Ontario.

DIED IN SLEEP

Almost all the casualties were in Toronto's western suburbs. Thirty-seven were on Kings River street, Raymond Drive, in Etobicoke where every house was swept away. There had been no warning. Many residents were trapped and drowned in their beds.

There was a macabre touch to the scene as dawn broke over the stricken valley. Ghouls were seen robbing the dead at police, firemen, troops and sailors fought to save the living. Local

Student Nurses In Ont. Eligible For \$1,000 Loans

TORONTO (CP)—Student nurses at 25 Ontario teaching hospitals will be eligible for interest-free loans of up to \$1,000 a year under the Canada student loan plan. Education Minister William Davis announced Tuesday.

Although the interest-free bank loans are guaranteed by the federal government, provisos of deciding who shall be eligible for them.

Mr. Davis speaking to a luncheon meeting of nursing school directors, said that nowhere is society's need for people with advanced education more apparent than in the health sciences field.

"That is one reason why we were happy to include the 52 teaching hospitals of Ontario as 'specified educational institutions' within the Canada student loan plan," he said.

By making student nurses eligible for the loans the province hoped many young girls would be encouraged to take up nursing as a career.

Fraud Case Judgement Postponed

QUEBEC (CP)—Judge Albert Dumontier of sessions court Tuesday postponed until Nov. 28 judgement in the case of Gerard Martineau, legislative councillor, who was tried on a fraud charge embracing 11 counts and involving \$54,600.

Mr. Martineau, 62-year-old former treasurer of the Union Nationale Party, was charged in connection with alleged unearned commissions on Quebec government paint contracts between 1955 and 1960.

He is also awaiting judgement by Judge Jean Baillargeon on two other fraud charges. One contained eight counts and the other five. A total of \$28,000 was involved.

When the trial ended Judge Baillargeon said he would give judgement after Tuesday, the date originally set for Judge Dumontier's judgement.

Widows Aided

Widows still are receiving \$100-a-month annuities plus \$30 monthly for each child. All flood orphans will receive \$2,500 when they reach 21 years of age. Ontario and federal government payments to restore lost homes and businesses totalled \$2,800,000.

Can such a disaster strike again?

Ontario has taken steps to ensure that it doesn't. The first move was to appropriate 327 houses in low-lying danger areas and to ban future housing developments there.

Then it set up the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority which in 1950 approved a \$38,000,000 flood-control program for the 1,000-square-mile region. It is being carried out over a 10-year period.

Many reservoirs and concrete flood channels have been completed and eventually, 13 dams and reservoirs will ring Metro Toronto. They will confine and channel flood waters harmlessly into Lake Ontario through regulated river systems.

OPEN NEW DAM

A major dam in the system, Claireville, 20 miles northwest of Toronto, was opened by Ontario Premier John Roberts and Arthur L. Laing, federal minister of northern affairs, Sept. 16. Ontario and the federal government are sharing the cost of the system.

The Claireville dam, like some of the others, creates a 380-acre storage reservoir and a 128-acre lake which will be used as a recreational facility during summer months. It is typical of post-Hazel conservation areas around Metro that lure hundreds of thousands throughout the summer.

Other preventive steps have been taken. Storm-warning and flood-forecasting facilities have been improved. The department of transport has assigned a full-time meteorologist to the job.

Only bad memories remain of Hurricane Hazel. Mrs. J. A. Ward, who spent seven hours clinging to the rooftop of her house before being rescued by helicopter, doesn't like to think of Oct. 15, 1954. "You'd go crazy brooding over it," she says.

Today, Raymond Drive lives again. It has been rebuilt on safer ground—but it is a third shorter than it was 10 years ago. Much of it now is a park. Its survivors have reclaimed it Calamity Crescent.

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Israel Critical Of Council For Jewish Action

TEL AVIV, Israel (Reuters)—Reaction in Israel to the deliberations by the Ecumenical Council in the Vatican about the 'Jewish document' has been generally critical.

A typical attitude was that expressed in an editorial in the Jerusalem Post which said many Jews do not believe the Jews of today or of 2,000 years ago stand in need of the church's absolution on a charge of deicide—a charge which they consider unreal and unrelated to historical events.

A more bitter reaction has linked the blood-stained history of anti-Jewish persecutions by the Roman Catholic Church with the current discussions in Rome.

It also raised the charges leveled against Pope Pius XII, that he failed to throw in the moral weight of the church against the Nazi anti-Jewish crimes.

This latter theme was developed recently in an article in the evening newspaper Maariv. The article complained there was no mention in the church document of the extermination of Jews by the Nazis.

"This makes it appear that the only thing which spoils the relations between Jews and Christians is something that has happened 70 generations back in Jerusalem and about something that happened 2,000 years ago in Europe."

The Travellers, Canada's first internationally famous folk-singing quartet, are to be among the many headline entertainers in Charlottetown for the Royal Variety Performance at Confederation Centre Theatre, Oct. 6th. Simone Johnston, Sid Dolgaj, Jerry Gray and Ray Woodley, four personalities whose cross-Canada tours, television appearances won them wide popularity. Since 1952, the members of this outstanding quartet have been rediscovering folk tunes.

In our difficulty in obtaining nurses' The minister blamed the doctor shortage also on a general national shortage. "We are being hit first," he said. Toilet, backed by H. W. Herdridge (NDP—Kootenay West) and Frank Fane (PC—Vancouver), turned down a suggestion that the department have an ombudsman to act as a watchdog for veterans' interests.



TRAVELLERS TO APPEAR AT ROYAL PERFORMANCE

polishing them up, and perfecting them with such verve and vitality that they well deserve their reputation as one of North America's foremost folk-singing groups.

Veterans Act Is Expected By End Of Oct.

OTTAWA (CP)—Veterans Affairs Minister Roger Tellez said Tuesday he hopes to have amendments to veterans' legislation brought to the Commons by the end of October.

He told the Veterans Affairs Committee the amendments still awaiting final cabinet approval, are to the Veterans Land Act, war veterans' allowances, veterans' pensions and the army benevolent fund.

The date was an objective, not a commitment, but the legislation would certainly be in the Commons before the end of the year.

Dr. J. N. Crawford, director general of Natural Resources, said there is an "alarming shortage of nurses for veterans hospitals. He blamed this partly on the general shortage nationally but particularly on the heavier workload imposed in veterans' institutions.

Dr. Crawford said some wards have been closed because of the shortage.

"The patient load is not as attractive as outside. In my opinion this is the main factor for the shortage."

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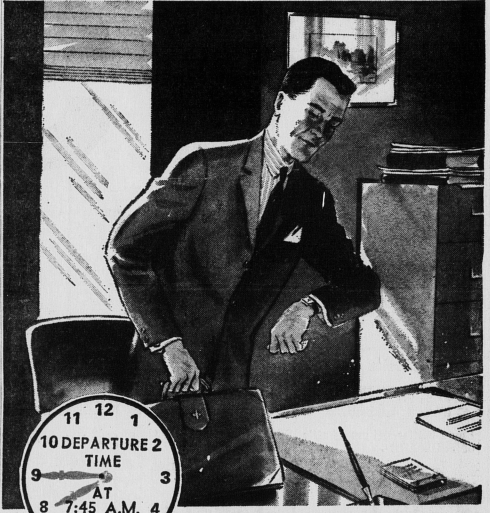
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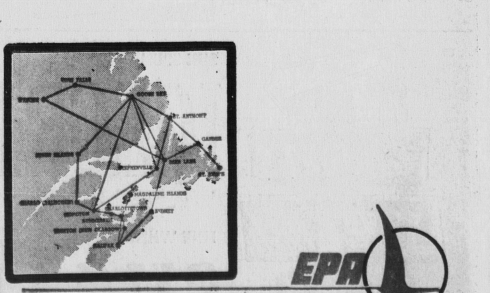
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