

Work Forces Mobilized to Bolster Defenses

By FRANK UHLIG
Sunday News Staff Writer

Working 18-hour days, contractors and workmen are making satisfactory progress in the high-priority job of bolstering Winona's flood defenses, the city engineering office said Saturday.

Responding to predictions of higher crests, the department said dikes will be built to the 23-foot level. Original plans were for a 22-foot top, in line with forecasts for a 20-foot river stage. The new forecast, issued after contractors began work Friday, prompted the revised elevation in emergency dikes.

ALTHOUGH no comments were available for the record, the unofficial objective seems to be completion of dike reinforcement by midweek. Faces were glam Saturday morning at the engineer's quarters when light rain fell, bringing with it some increased difficulty in earth-moving operations. Duration of the shower was brief, however, and skies were sunny at 10:30.

Mobilized at the request of Mayor R. K. Ellings, contractors went to work Friday at 6 a.m. and continued until

midnight. No count or estimate of the number of men and machines was to be had. Work went ahead in four sectors of the dike system.

City Engineer James Baird said about 5.8 miles of dike was involved in the original plan. This has been raised to approximately seven miles, he said, with the addition of plans to construct an emergency levee in the area of 2nd and Wall streets.

The dike, roughly crescent-shaped, will exclude the city sewage treatment plant and will extend from the approximate area of Winona Knitting Mills to a point west of the now-vacant Swift & Co. plant.

ADDITIONAL equipment, mostly trucks, began arriving Saturday from several nearby communities, including Rochester, La Crosse, Rushford and St. Charles. Three pickups with drivers and a large diesel-driven generator for a field lighting system were sent from Owatonna.

Assistance was being given the city engineer by Arthur Johnson, Army Corps of Engineers resident engineer for the major flood-control project scheduled to begin this spring. Johnson said his job is to observe what is being done in

the present emergency and coordinate operations with Corps plans where possible.

Johnson authorized the loan of two 12-inch pumps to the city from the government boathouse at Fountain City, Wis. One was to be installed at the High Forest Street lift station and the other at the east end of Lake Winona.

Mayor Ellings said another 100,000 bags was due to arrive in the city today. This would bring the total to 247,000.

Of these, 10,000 were released to the village of La Crescent, the mayor said. Two trucks arrived Saturday about 9:30 a.m. to load the emergency shipment.

Sandbag filling and stockpiling continued Saturday. City officials said their efficiency would be increased by extensive use of plastic sheets to prevent wave and current erosion of fresh dikes. The bags will be used chiefly to hold the sheets in place.

A 3.2-foot head was being held by the Prairie Island dike Saturday, officials said. As in 1952, the maximum difference maintained will be five feet. A gate in the bridge regulates it.

UNLIKE 1952, the prospects for washout of the dike gate

are remote, engineers said. The gate washed out both in 1961 and 1962. Since then sheet piling has been sunk to form wings on each side of the gate and prevent eroding currents from infiltrating behind the structure.

City water supplies are considered relatively safe from contamination at this point, according to Water Commissioner G. O. Harvey. Regular tests are made three times a week, he said. Frequency of the tests will be stepped up if river levels reach extreme heights. The department will keep a close watch on the situation and the state Department of Health also can be expected to make its own evaluation, Harvey said.

Harvey said Winona was the only city on the Mississippi River where residents did not have to boil municipally-supplied water during the 1952 flood. Constant checks were made and potability was maintained through addition of appropriate amounts of chlorine, he recalled.

According to a state directive, pumps at the Johnson Street station will be shut off when the river reaches 15 feet. They will be used in high-water periods only in event of an emergency.

Waters Threaten Transportation Here

Transportation facilities, threatened by rising water, will continue operating as long as possible, spokesmen said Saturday.

MAX CONRAD FIELD would be among the first places hit if the flood follows the pattern set in 1952. The dike protecting the airport is built to hold back an 18-foot crest, but it broke in 1952, covering the field.

This year, a 21-foot crest is predicted. The dike height is being increased to 23.

Robert Dunn, owner of WINONA AVIATION Service, Inc., said he would move his planes and office equipment off the field by the middle of next week. He will, however, keep one plane here until the last minute for emergency use, he said.

NORTH CENTRAL AIRLINES will move its office equipment

to the second floor of the airport administration building if water appears likely to cover the field. If it does, flight service here will be suspended until the water subsides.

Donald Dumas, MILWAUKEE ROAD agent here, explained that low spots on tracks near La Crosse and St. Paul's Union Station will prevent trains from moving past these points.

Although his tracks are fairly high in this immediate area, Dumas explained, no trains would run out of the city if there was nowhere they could go.

The CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY'S yards have a few low spots that presented trouble in previous floods. There is some seepage water in a low point beneath the road's bridge, but pumps are keeping it passable.

The North Western was the line most seriously affected here in 1952.

AS DO ALL railroads here, North Western uses only diesel engines now. They cannot run when more than three inches of water covers the tracks, Roadmaster Gale E. Fox explained, because they have traction motors that clear the tracks by only about five inches. These motors will not run when wet, he said.

In previous floods, Fox said, his road closed its Mississippi River bridge and parked a string of cars loaded with crushed rock on its Bathhouse Slough span to give it more stability.

Such cars have been ordered again, he said, and they will be run onto the bridge as soon as water reaches the steel supporting the tracks. Tracks are out near Trempealeau, however, and the line is having some difficulty getting the cars here.

Like the Milwaukee Road, BURLINGTON RAILROAD would be able to continue running locally for quite some time, but would run into trouble near St. Paul.

One low spot in the line's track system here is on East 2nd Street near Mankato Avenue.

DOUMAS said the Milwaukee Road would definitely be able to keep running at least through Monday. What happens after that depends on whether trains can get through at La Crosse or St. Paul.

THE COLLEGE of Saint Teresa, scheduled to close for its Easter recess Wednesday, will send its students home at the end of classes Monday. This will assure that they will be able to take trains to the Twin Cities or Chicago.

Transportation facilities using highways, such as trucking firms and Greyhound Bus Lines, will continue their regular schedules until highways are closed. Detours will be used wherever possible.



EXPANDED LAKE . . . Lake Winona Saturday afternoon pushed across its sand beaches and up to grassy areas in certain spots. This photograph taken at Lake Park Lodge, looking toward the lake, shows the lodge partially surrounded

by water. Water did not reach the main entrance on the north side which was sandbagged, as a protective measure, however. (Sunday News photo)

Measures Taken to Stem Rise In Lake; Some Property Moved

Lake Winona, nearly a half-foot higher Saturday than the highest 1952 level, continued to vex engineers trying doggedly to reverse its rising trend. Home owners got ready for basement seepage they feared

would result from high water nearby. A number of families moved furniture, appliances and other articles from basements to ground floor level or above. A few families in the area took advantage of a moving

company's advertised service to remove furniture from their homes for safekeeping.

AT LEAST ONE business, Home Furniture Store, 350 E. Sarnia St., will move stocks to

Welfare Court Cases Reviewed

Welfare department involvement in court cases was discussed by director William P. Werner at Thursday afternoon's Winona County Welfare Board meeting.

Werner told the board that his staff has two new court-ordered adoptive studies in process and has just completed two studies for District Court cases involving custody of children.

The department now is working on a child-abandonment proceeding, he said, and it has just filed material in juvenile court in connection with three separate hearings involving termination of parental rights.

Werner also presented a summary of his department's activities and expenses for the quarter ending March 31.

Arrangements for satisfaction of an old age assistance lien have been completed, the board was told.

The board approved the relicensing of a foster home for adults and authorized payment of monthly bills.



ONE SOLUTION . . . Unable to move furniture out of his cottage, this owner had it placed on stilts. The problem now is whether the water will rise higher than the stilts. (Sunday News photo)

Flood Sidelights

Have Boat, Won't Travel

There is one place in town where workers are trying to let flood waters in, rather than keep them out.

Holes are being made in the hull of the Steamer Wilkie in Levee Park, Dr. Lewis I. Younger, president of the Winona County Historical Society, which owns the boat, said Saturday. This is being done to keep the hull from becoming buoyant in the event that flood waters reach it. This move — as well as guy lines that will be attached to it — will prevent it from floating away or capsizing, Dr. Younger explained.

Exhibits will be moved to upper decks, he said, and some of the most valuable exhibits will be removed from the Wilkie. He said, however, that society officials did not expect the water to pass the main deck of the steamboat. It is five feet above the ground.

The city engineer's office was attempting to get rental trucks from Rochester contractors Friday night. Kujak Brothers trucks were hauling sand for the army engineer sandbagging at Alma.

Whittaker Marine had oil storage pumped from their big tanks at the harbor Friday night and had the fire department fill the tanks with water.

A civilian policeman working on traffic on the Prairie Island dike did not have a flashlight so he called the center in the city building to dispatch one to him Friday night.

The railroad bridge of the Burlington at Fountain City,

SIDELIGHTS
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temporary storage. C. R. Hauge, owner, said he would begin moving an estimated \$65,000 inventory Monday.

Water surrounded Lake Park Lodge on three sides. Park Recreation department personnel prepared to sandbag around doors to keep water from entering if levels rose higher. No cancellations of events scheduled for the lodge were announced. Park Superintendent Bruce Reed said water was still five to six inches below floor level. The building rests on a concrete base and has no basement.

Three pumps were in action at the lake's east end Saturday, throwing 15,000 gallons of water per minute across the closed flood gates into the outlet ditch. Still another pump, started at 3 p.m., added 5,000 gallons more capacity to the fight to lower levels.

Barricades were put across all street entrances to Lake Park Saturday about 2 p.m. They cut off a steady stream of sight-seers' cars which previously had been moving slowly through the park.

IN A FURTHER effort to control the lake level, a small dam was built to keep Gilmore Creek water from Lake Winona, according to Gordon Fay, Winona County highway engineer.

The water will be held in Bolter's Lake, alongside Goodview Road. The lake forms a ponding reservoir for the creek before its waters reach Lake Winona. Bolter's Lake should hold another five feet of water, Fay said, thus withholding excess downhill runoff from entering Lake Winona.

The flow of water into Lake Winona was calculated at about 24,000 gallons a minute, prior to the dam's construction. Pumps at the east end meanwhile were able to discharge only 10,000 to 15,000 gallons per minute. When Lake Winona levels are lowered, the surplus water in Bolter's Lake will be gradually released.

City engineering personnel recorded the lake level Monday at 6.6 feet. This is slightly above normal. The gates were closed Tuesday when a rise of .35 inches was observed.

THEREAFTER, pumps went into action. Two pumps operated until Thursday night. Then a 10-pound carp was sucked into one intake and put the pump out of action. The lake rose a foot in the time this pump was down. Third and fourth pumps were added Saturday but engineers said it was too early Saturday afternoon to judge their combined effect.

Lake and river levels for the week were:

| | Lake Winona | River |
|-----------|-------------|-------|
| Monday | 6.60 | 7.88 |
| Tuesday | 6.95 | 9.02 |
| Wednesday | 7.52 | 10.11 |
| Thursday | 7.73 | 10.85 |
| Friday | 8.91 | 12.08 |
| Saturday | 9.20 | 12.81 |

Some Families Move; No General Evacuation

Although some families have begun to evacuate low-lying areas, Civil Defense evacuation procedures have not yet been put into effect, director George McGuire said Saturday.

The family of Alfred Berndt, city treasurer, left its Prairie Island home late last week and is staying in Williams Hotel while looking for a trailer home for the duration of the flood danger.

A few families living along

Sarnia Street began moving their belongings from their homes Saturday. Vans took furniture and appliances, for instance, from the homes of Frederick E. Leicht, Sarnia and Market streets.

WHEN THE official evacuation process begins, however, CD will be in charge of moving families from their homes and finding temporary quarters for them.

The Red Cross will assist in caring for the families in these temporary lodgings. W. E. Morse, executive director of the Winona Industrial Development Association, has been appointed Red Cross disaster chairman and will be in charge of these emergency procedures.

Right now, the Red Cross — working in cooperation with the Salvation Army — is operating its canteen to feed workers at flood-control sites.

The Red Cross is taking care of workers at Prairie Island and the airport, while the Salvation Army is feeding those in the city's east end.

MONDAY NIGHT, James Schain, Red Cross president here, met with McGuire and Red Cross representatives Harry McCullahs, St. Louis, disaster coordinator for the nine Southeastern Minnesota counties, and Gil Gaiser, Rochester.

The role of the Red Cross in any emergency was outlined then. Actually, a Red Cross spokesman said, the agency's chief responsibility will come after the flood subsides and it will be in charge of assisting displaced families to rehabilitate themselves and their properties.

Drunk Driving Charge Filed After Accident

A Kellogg, Minn., man was in county jail Saturday after pleading guilty to a charge of drunk driving following a collision Friday on U.S. 61 near the border between Winona and Wabasha counties.

LaVern F. Hager, 49, Kellogg, was charged with drunk driving by the Minnesota Highway Patrol after he drove his car into the rear of an empty automobile transport truck Friday at about 8:15 p.m., while both were moving north on U.S. 61.

Arrested in Goodview Justice Court Saturday morning, Hager pleaded guilty to the charge and was ordered by Justice Lewis E. Albert to pay a \$100 fine and \$5 costs or serve 60 days in county jail. He was in jail Saturday at noon.

Hager had stitches taken in his upper and lower lips at Community Memorial Hospital following the collision. He was taken to the hospital by the Highway Patrol, then put in jail to await arraignment Saturday morning.

Driver of the truck, Anthony J. Hieb, St. Paul, was unhurt; and there was no damage to his vehicle. Damage to the Hager car was about \$450.

River Flow Faster as Stage Rises

The Mississippi River, moving into flood stage readings, headed for a predicted level of 13.1 today, 13.6 Tuesday and 14.2 Wednesday in its drive to what is expected to be its highest level in recorded history.

The stage Saturday morning was 12.60 and by late afternoon the reading had risen to 12.81.

UNDER THE speeded up current, estimated today at nearly 7 miles per hour, ice was rapidly moving out of the pools and crashing through the wide open dams.

Normal current is about 3 miles per hour. The flowage at the Winona dam Saturday afternoon was 104,000 cubic feet per second. Normal is about 14,000. During the peak of the 1952 flood, record flowage was 225,000 feet per second.

The Mississippi was rising all along its course with a marked rise from St. Paul to Alma. Nearly a foot rise was marked at Lake City and Alma.

VARIABLE cloudiness in the weather prediction for today with an afternoon high of 45-55. Monday, says the weatherman, will see more showers and little temperature change.

Winona's Saturday shower dropped .12 of an inch of precipitation with the temperature rising to 51 in the afternoon.

HOUSTON COUNTY ARC LA CRESCENT, Minn. — A total of \$2,942.75 has been raised for the friendship campaign to help mentally retarded children and adults in Houston County and throughout the state and nation, according to Mrs. Robert Kies, La Crescent, chairman.



NATIONAL GUARD AT WORK . . . Several members of the Winona National Guard Company B, filled sand bags Saturday at the armory. Members of the guard who were

at a regularly scheduled meeting, also volunteered to control traffic on West 5th Street. (Sunday News photo)

ANOTHER IMPORTANT COMMUNITY FACT

SOON . . . More purchases in Winona

SAUER MEMORIAL HOME

Home for the Aged
WINONA, MINNESOTA