

Dangerous River May Be 18 Sunday

By WILLIAM J. COLE
Daily News Managing Editor
The Mississippi River, still extremely dangerous, was slowly receding from its crest at Winona today.

The decline to noon today still was less than half a foot from the 26.75 high of Monday afternoon.

The reading at noon today was 20.39, down .36 of a foot from Monday's crest.

For the next four days the projected Weather Bureau figures were:

Thursday 20.3
Friday 19.8
Saturday 19.0
Sunday 18.0

Thus the first of the big daily drops will come Sunday when the river is expected to fall a foot.

At La Crosse the crest passed at 5 p.m. Tuesday and for the next three days readings of 17.7 and 17.6 are expected. The river is not expected to be back to the 15-foot reading until April 28.

Northward from Winona the river was dropping all the way to St. Paul, but flood stages were not expected to be reached until near the end of the month.

Joseph Strub, the Weather Bureau's river expert, who nearly a month ago started Winona flood preparations with his prediction of the highest river in the city's history, flew over the area Tuesday.

After returning to Minneapolis he said: "There's so much water all over everywhere that it will have to be a slow drop." He reported water from bluff to bluff in some cases.

A slight drop occurred in flowage over the Winona Dam today. Wallace Voss, lockmaster, reported.

The figure today was 258,000 cubic feet per second. At the peak of the flood the rate was 264,000.

Figures for the past week follow:

Wednesday 258,000
Tuesday 264,000
Monday 261,000
Sunday 260,000
Saturday 250,000
Friday 210,000
Thursday 182,500

The Mississippi and other flood swollen rivers continued to recede after inflicting an estimated \$50 million to \$60 million damage on the state.

But there are still perils. Three crewmen of Northern States Power Co. were pulled from the swift current of the Mississippi after their boat tipped Tuesday, and four persons were plucked from a tree surrounded by flood waters of Snake River.

The NSP employes, Gordon Rieger, 43, and Richard Koch, 31, of St. Paul, and William Curtis, 32, New Brighton, were trimming branches of a tree surrounded by deep water when their boat overturned. Two of the men managed to hold onto the capsized craft and the third grabbed the tree.

Workers in a nearby sand and gravel plant saw the men fall into the water and rescued them in a tugboat.

Richard Havisto, 19, and Richard Foster, 18, of Pine City, tried to ride the Snake River in a canoe, but it capsized and was bent around a tree on a submerged island near Pine City. Foster's uncle, Robert Foster, 43, and a friend, Mark Eliason, 40, also of Pine City, took a motor boat out to rescue the two.

Engineers Get Loss Estimate Of \$3 Million

An estimate of losses up to \$3 million was to be given to Corps of Engineers today in St. Paul by a Winona City Council delegation.

Council President Harold Briesath headed the group which included George M. Robertson Jr., city attorney, and William P. Theurer, former alderman. The delegation expected to meet briefly with legislators and later to confer with banking officials on the subject of large emergency borrowings for flood-control expenses incurred the past two weeks.

At its Monday meeting the council authorized emergency borrowings of up to \$3 million.

Data furnished the corps in turn will be forwarded to the Federal Office of Emergency Planning which will set up a plan of disaster aid to the city.

Winona is eligible for such aid under provisions of the President's designation of parts of Minnesota as a disaster area.

Few solid guesses can be made on gross costs of the city's current defense project, the city recorder, John S. Carter, said today. Advance estimates of \$100,000 by Winona Plumbing Co. and James O'Laughlin Plumbing Co. and \$75,000 by N. A. Roverud Construction Co. have been submitted, Carter said.

Don't Relax, Mayor Says

By FRANK UHLIG
Daily News Staff Writer
Like a wild creature, stung but undefeated, the Mississippi River today is an even more dangerous enemy, officials in the city flood-fighting headquarters believe.

City Engineer James Baird warned that slightly decreasing pressure on outward defenses tends to loosen them up. This means there are more weak spots to watch for, he said.

AS IF TO underline his warning, strings of trucks continue to haul fresh earth to back up the dikes. Much of the traffic was directed toward Prairie Island, where contractors built themselves a new access road after covering up previous roadways with additional diking.

Some spot reinforcing also was being applied at Crooked Slough and Mankato Avenue dikes. At Mankato Avenue, occasional sand boils were countered by enclosing them with barrels and surrounding the barrels with sandbags.

Mayor R. K. Ellings warned against any letdown: "We have spent a tremendous amount of money up to now and we simply have to keep on going. We don't consider any dikes finished and we're still working on all of them."

"People shouldn't get the idea the danger is past just because the river level is down a few tenths of a foot. The critical time in any flood comes as the crest drops."

"We still have a flood that's far above that of 1932. If anything, we need even more dike patrols than before. We can't relax for a minute — not until the water is down to the point where it can't do any damage, even if dikes were to break."

flat gate and this is holding back most of the direct flow from the river. Infiltration continues, he said, but pumping at points along Crooked Slough is controlling this influx.

THE TWO MAJOR areas menaced by possible STORM SEWER ruptures are low-elevation residential districts at the city's northeast and northwest corners. About 40 blocks between Harvester and Olmstead streets and about 35 blocks lying roughly between Adams and High Forest streets are endangered. Residents have been evacuated from major portions of these districts.

Constant pumping has brought water levels in the 5th and Jefferson Street silt down about two feet. Aiding in this reduction are the successful efforts to cut off some of the backflow through means of sandbags and inflatable bags. Some water enters from an outlet at Louisa and King streets but pumping is handling this problem.

A similar well near 3rd and Mechanic streets also had been lowered by pumps.

The Olmstead Street pumping station now is handling overflow from the Washington Street sewer system as well as seepage in the adjacent Chicago & North Western switch yard. An additional 12-inch pump installed Tuesday near the Archer-Daniels-Midland plant has helped reduce water levels in overflowing sewers.

All SANITARY SEWAGE now is being pumped into the river, engineers said. The sanitary sewage disposal plant is completely under water, flooded early Monday by an erupting effluent main.

A sanitary sewer main on Bellevue Street, between Sioux and Dakota streets, has collapsed, engineers said. The failure occurred in a 15-inch collector main. Emergency pumps are in operation, carrying the flow around the break in a temporary bypassing setup.

Wind Major Dike Worry

Dike workers feared, perhaps more than anything else, sharp wind action which would drive floating debris against the dikes, damaging them and possibly causing the start of a breakthrough.

North Central Airlines weather station at Max Conrad Field reported the wind at 12 miles per hour from the northwest at noon with a barometer of 30.04 and rising slowly.

Lake Pepin Calm; Trucks Move in City

LAKE CITY, Minn.—At noon today Lake Pepin here was down inches from Tuesday noon but the street above the engulfed boat harbor still was covered.

Tuesday's east wind, which battered the dikes and caused repairs to be made, have died down and the lake now is calm.

WITHOUT WIND, there is no appreciable current on the shore here, the police explained. The flow is .2 of 1 knot per hour.

One-lane truck traffic has been getting through from the north end of town since Monday morning. About 8,000 feet of dike were built by the state Highway Department from the north city limits, past Central Point and into Goodhue County.

This diking, extending more than a mile, is 5 to 6 feet high. Downriver, south of the Milwaukee Railroad overpass, one lane of traffic is allowed over about 300 feet of Highway 61.

City Council May Discuss Daylight Time

Daylight savings time may be the subject of a special City Council meeting this week, aldermen indicated today.

A city delegation was to confer with local legislators on the matter today in St. Paul. They planned to ask about status of a bill recently submitted in the legislature which would penalize cities which changed their clocks independently of the rest of the state.

Winona coordinated its switch to fast time last year with that of Wisconsin by special resolution of the council. The city thereby went on DST a month earlier than the rest of the state, except for a handful of other border municipalities.

This year Wisconsin will make its switch at the same time — Sunday — but it will stay on a month later, to the end of October.

Council President Harold Briesath is expected to call a special meeting for the purpose of putting Winona on the same time schedule as Wisconsin.

About 800 feet of dikes were built there.

Five to eight inches of water were reported over Highway 61 at Maple Springs.

Gov. Karl Rolvaag asked that 11 more counties be declared flood disaster areas, to make them eligible for emergency federal assistance. The Office of Emergency Planning already has approved 46 other counties.

Wabasha, a community of 2,500 remained surrounded by water Tuesday, but the river there is falling slowly.

At Stillwater, the St. Croix River was down about a half foot from its peak. Stores were to be opened today for the first time in almost a week, but no automobile traffic is permitted in the downtown area. The bridge at Stillwater remains closed.

There is one cheering note among all the grim reports. Peter Mitzuk's polyethylene-wrapped house at Hastings is, as he puts it, "as snug as a bug in a rug."

Mitzuk took a 400 foot roll of polyethylene 16 feet wide and wrapped up the house.

"Now I think I've got it whipped," Mitzuk said. "And the main floor is still dry. Let me tell you, I've saved anywhere from \$5,000 to \$5,000, and maybe more."

More than 5,000 private wells in the state are threatened by floodwater contamination, about 1,000 of them in suburban communities near Minneapolis, the State Health Department said.

The boat capsized and the men had to seek safety in the tree.

Woodlawn Names Same Officers

All officers and trustees of the Woodlawn Cemetery Association were re-elected at the association's annual meeting Tuesday.

They include R. J. Selover, president; K. A. McQueen, vice president, and A. B. Youmans, treasurer. Trustees re-elected include Selover, John Glenn and J. Russell Smith.

Neil Sawyer was appointed secretary for one year and George Hartner Jr., superintendent and actuary for one year.

Other trustees include A. M. Oskamp, F. W. Sayer, Norman Schellhas, Youmans, McQueen and George Robertson Jr.

During 1964 there were 181 interments, an increase of 51 over 1963. They included 165 adults, eight baby and eight cremated remains. A total of 173 concrete vaults and eight wood rough boxes were used.

A recent survey showed 2,100 grave spaces for sale in the new grass surface grave marker, section and 456 grave spaces in the monument section.

Plans for the new office building were discussed.

They're Confident on Island

By TERRY BORMANN
Daily News Staff Writer
"We're working with confidence, backing up the dike now, and things are well under control," said Jim O'Laughlin, contractor, with Mark Modjeski, for the Prairie Island dike.

O'Laughlin said that the area between the deer park and Dam 5A, which people have been concerned about, looks "real, real good to us."

MODJESKI said that he and O'Laughlin are gradually taking equipment off the job. "The things we are taking off we know where they are, though," Modjeski emphasized. "We're not going to get caught short," he said.

O'Laughlin agreed: "We aren't about to go home," he said.

Civil Defense Director George McGuire also said, of plans for gradually shutting down the flood-fighting machine, "Right now, everything is tentative. We're talking about a lot of things, but we've just got to wait and see."

On a trip out the length of the Prairie Island dike, Modjeski pointed out that the road was now two-way for part of its length and that it had been raised to the height of the dike—in effect making the dike

about the width, on the top, of a three-lane street.

THREE BROTHERS from Lewiston—Allen, Howard and LaVerne Peterson—said that the Minnesota City dike had been "weeping" more today than Tuesday. However, it wasn't anything to be alarmed about, they said.

The brothers work for the government on the dike protecting Dam 5A. They have been on dike watch and also fill sandbags when the need arises. "Just so long as the water that seeps through is clear," one of them said, "we're okay."

O'Laughlin and Modjeski gave special praise to the truck drivers who "stuck with us in the muck" early this week. About half the trucks left their jobs Tuesday, "when the road near the deer park became so thick in mud that bulldozers had to push the trucks in and out."

BUT THE REST stuck with it, and, Modjeski joked, they now have a clay road as good as any of the unpaved county roads. O'Laughlin said that, in addition to strengthening the dike, Modjeski and he were improving the road so that it would carry car traffic to the homes on the island, when these are opened up in a week or 10 days.

The two contractors also praised the workers who came out to the dikes in response to Mayor R. K. Ellings' call last Thursday.

Workers from Goodall Manufacturing Corp., Brom Machine & Foundry Co., Madison Silo, Watkins Products, Inc., and Northwestern Cooperative Mills still are on the job, usually with their own supervisor, and doing marvelous work, according to Modjeski and O'Laughlin.

The contractors also thanked the Salvation Army crews who kept their men supplied with food through the many days of the flood fight — and continue to do so. (The Peterson brothers put in their own words of thanks to the Salvation Army canteens.)

O'LAUGHLIN said that Modjeski and he plan to keep back-up rigs loaded with fill in reserve to take care of trouble spots as the Mississippi recedes. This probably would be done on all the dikes, the contractors surmised, as other equipment was pulled off the job.

The air under a warm sun today was almost lazy on the Prairie Island dike. There were fewer men than last week, and the sense of urgency which drove those hundreds was absent today. Some worked in their T-shirts. A few young girls walked the dikes, flirting with workers.

Sandbags are still being filled and placed, however, as the receding river drags some of the dike facing with it. And tremendous amounts of fill continue to be brought in to strengthen the already massive dikes extending toward each other from the Madison Silo Co. and Minnesota City.

Employment Office Gets Only Few Calls

Don't get too complacent, Ray H. Brown warned Winonans today.

The manager of the Minnesota State Employment Service office here and area manpower coordinator during the flood emergency, Brown said today that there is still more than a 20-foot river stage here.

A call for a lot of men could come at any time if a dike would break or another emergency would occur, he asserted.

Although the only calls this morning were a few for skilled equipment operators, Brown said, he was warning job-seekers that the emergency was not yet over and they should keep themselves available.

None of the communities south of Winona—such as La Crosse, where the river is cresting today—has issued calls for workers from here, Brown said.

His office is continuing to operate on a 24-hour-a-day basis, he added.

Brown said that figures compiled Tuesday show that, as of Monday night, a total of 4,350 paid workers were sent to flood-control jobs by his office.

Of this total, 3,310 went to work on city projects. The federal government hired 810 for work on area dams through the office, and private industry took the remaining 210 workers.

School Reopening Set for Monday

A postponement in the opening of Winona's public and parochial elementary and secondary schools and the three colleges until Monday was announced today.

Superintendent of Schools A. L. Nelson said at the conclusion of a conference with city Civil Defense Director George McGuire that in consideration of existing emergency conditions it would be best not to have children return to school Thursday as previously planned.

Schools originally were to have resumed classes after the Easter recess Tuesday but a two-day postponement was agreed to last weekend because of the flood situation.

THE MONDAY reopening applies to all public schools, Catholic and Lutheran parochial schools and Phelps School, in kindergarten through 12th grades.

The city's three colleges — Winona State, St. Mary's and College of Saint Teresa — also will reopen Monday morning.

Phelps School follows the schedule of Winona State and St. Matthew's Lutheran School was on vacation this week.

Nelson said that several factors were taken into consideration during the discussion with CD authorities this morning.

IN THE FIRST place, he said, the river crest only recently has been reached and water will remain at a high level for some time. The superintendent said that it was felt that calling children back to school at this time would be exposing them to unnecessary hazards.

Also cited was the fact that the concentration of some 8,000 pupils in school buildings throughout the city would be putting an additional strain on the already critical storm sewer system.

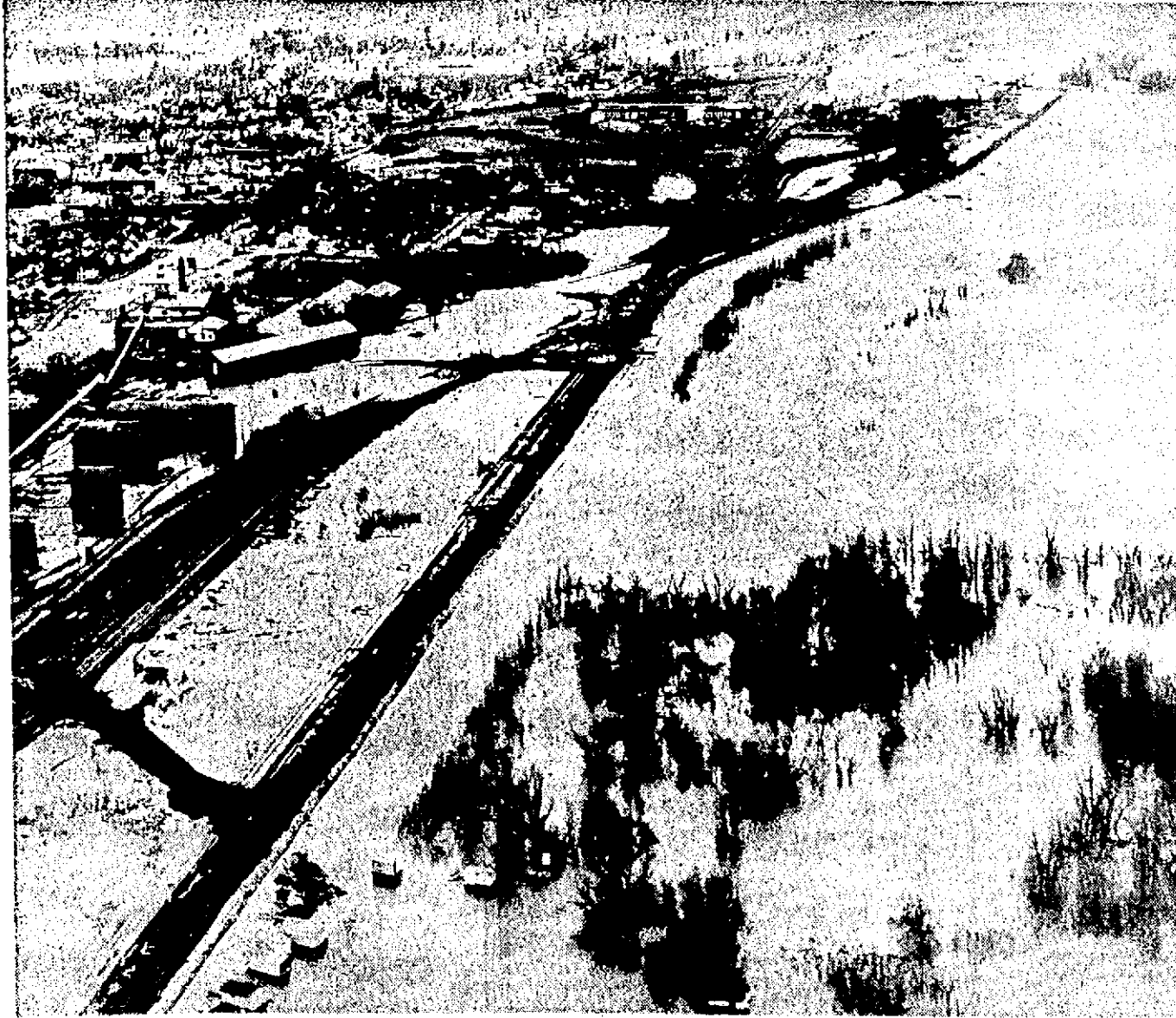
As far as the public schools are concerned, thought was given Monday by the Board of Education to a possible extension of a day or two of the school year this spring to compensate for the lost days during the emergency if the reopening of schools was to be postponed until Monday.

ACTION ON this would be taken at a meeting of the Board of Education.

Madison and Lincoln schools are at elevations below the present river levels and the superintendent noted this morning that if there were to be any major flooding many schools would be cut off from homes, making transportation of children to their homes difficult.

Nelson pointed out that Jefferson and Central Elementary schools are designated as auxiliary hospital units and Senior High and Washington - Kosciuszko schools are evacuation centers.

Virtually all of the teaching staff in the public schools and many of the high school boys are now engaged in emergency flood work.



GUERRILLA WARFARE... Engineers fight a battle against infiltration of seepage water behind dikes, as this photo of Crooked Slough levees shows. The view is upstream, with the river on the right. Large pools of seepage water inside dike system keep batteries of pumps operating at capacity output to maintain a differential. Sandbags line outside of dike to level of about four feet above the river's high-water point. (Daily News photo)

NOTICE

LABORER'S LOCAL — 1316

April 22nd Special Meeting postponed to later date due to flood emergency.

JAMES M. FOSTER,
President