



RETREATING RIVER . . . The bottom two rows of sandbags, wringing wet, were covered with water Wednesday morning. This picture was made where the Crooked Slough Dike and Prairie Island road connects, considered one of the danger spots in the dike system. (Daily News photo)

It's Long Way Back

River Sliding Back Under 20

By WILLIAM J. COLE
Daily News Staff Writer

Receding at what seems a discouraging pace, the Mississippi River today was headed below the 20-foot mark after a fall of .32 of an inch in 24 hours.

The reading at noon today was 20.07 and the Weather Bureau's predicted stages for the next three days:

Friday	19.7
Saturday	19.0
Sunday	18.9

The drop since Monday's afternoon's crest of 20.75 still was only .68 and everyone connected with the job of saving Winona agreed that there still was a tremendous lot of water to pass the city.

The crest had passed LA CROSSE, Wis., on its surge down the Mississippi valley. The La Crosse reading today was 17.7, the crest. Readings of 17.6, 17.4 and 17 feet were expected in the next three days.

Even at ST. PAUL, where the crest passed a week ago, the river still was running high, 21.9 feet, near the 23.9 crest set nearly a week ago. Three-day predictions are for 20.9, 19.3 and 18.2.

At RED WING the stage today was 19.6 with drops to 18.8, 17.7 and 16.8 in the next three days.

Drops of half a foot occurred in the past 24 hours at stations from Red Wing through the Winona Dam but points from Winona southward experienced lesser drops.

Although the Weather Bureau made no forecast for Winona past Sunday, observers emphasized that with the enormous amount of water to pass the city the stage could be expected to remain above the 13-foot flood stage through the month.

FLOWAGE continued to drop at Winona SA, with a morning registration of 243,000 cubic feet per second. This compares with 258,000 Wednesday.

Figures for the past week:

Tuesday	254,000
Monday	261,000
Sunday	260,000
Saturday	230,000
Friday	210,000
Thursday	182,500

Scattered **SHOWERS** are slated to fall on dike watcher and citizen alike tonight and Friday.

A low temperature of 40-46 will accompany the rain tonight and a high of 58-65 is expected Friday. For Saturday the outlook is for little change.

The temperature rose to a comfortable 67 in Winona Wednesday afternoon, dropped to 40 overnight and was 56 at noon today.

A year ago today the Winona high was 64 and the low 40. All-time high for April 22 was 65 in 1928 and the low 20 in 1910.

Mean for the past 24 hours was 53. Normal for this day is 50.

THE TEMPERATURE got below the freezing mark again in northern Minnesota with a reading of 20 at International Falls and 29 at Bemidji. At Rochester the overnight low was 40 after a Wednesday high of 58. La Crosse posted extremes of 41 and 68.

Only measurable rain in the state was .03 at Redwood Falls.

Fresidio, Tex., set the national high of 104 degrees Wednesday, compared with the low early today of 23 at Traverse City, Mich.



THREE LANE ROAD . . . The Prairie Island dike road has been raised five feet and widened to a three-lane highway. Big trucks moving over it have packed the surface to the hardness of city streets. Sandbagging crews and intensive patrol is being maintained. (Daily News photo)



PRAIRIE ISLAND BRIDGE . . . On the downriver side the river is up to the top of the water entrance to Prairie Island gate bridge. The gates are closed now; earlier they were open to avoid too large a "head." The difference in level above and below the bridge can be seen by comparing the water heights in the picture. The big stack of filled sandbags is where the break came in 1952. Normally at this time of year this bridge is popular for carp fishing. (Daily News photo)

Evacuees Return To Their Homes

Mayor R. K. Ellings this noon gave the "go" signal to evacuees anxious to return to their own homes.

Said Ellings:

"With the river receding and the threat of storm sewer breakage lessening, together with the desire of the evacuated persons to return to their homes, it is the opinion of the city engineer that they may do so; therefore, the National Guard unit, which has been on security patrol in the designated areas, has been instructed that, beginning as of 12 o'clock noon today, the evacuated persons may return to their homes."

More than a thousand were ordered to evacuate Monday afternoon.

RED CROSS REPORT

Georgian Says We're Greatest

By GARY EVANS
Daily News Staff Writer

"Don't get me started," drawled 30-year Red Cross disaster worker Peg York, an Atlanta, Georgian.

"I jes want to rave and rave about these people. They are the greatest."

SHE WAS speaking in reply to a gentleman who said, in effect: "We may not have the most water on our streets, but we've had the utmost cooperation in keeping it off the streets."

Winona's desperation fight against a rampant Mississippi River drew comment from literally coast to coast as the water kept rising but the city remained dry.

It has been a fight in which nearly everyone can take pride. W. E. Morse, Red Cross disaster chairman, can relate in stance after instance of valiantry.

Not everyone has been able to help mold the nine-mile outer-defense system, but nearly everyone has influenced the Winona stand, the I-dare-you-to-try-and-get-us-Mr.-River attitude.

MORSE SPOKE at length this morning of a young lad — estimates placed him somewhere around 9 years old — who arrived at Red Cross headquarters this morning with his contribution for dike workers.

The young fellow, who left before headquarters staffers could get his name, informed that he had just sold some rags. The profits from his 17-cent sale went to buy two candy bars he hoped would feed some hungry laborer.

"And when he left, he said he was going home to get some bottles to sell so he could bring us more candy," said Morse.

When Mrs. York speaks of the fantastic fight against the river, she is speaking of not only dike workers, but the cooks from church organizations who have "bootlegged" hot soup to crewmen despite a health department edict to stop the practice, National Guardsmen on duty and workers manning evacuation shelters.

AS OF THIS afternoon, shelter workers were to be without their jobs. Because only seven evacuees remained in the senior high school unit today, Mrs. York had just completed their relocation so nurses and shelter workers might go off 24-hour duty.

They will remain on standby, however, should the need arise.

Four single men were going to the Cotter High School rest area, one couple to the Williams Hotel and one man with a leg fracture to the Hotel Winona where elevator service is available.

Evacuees began returning home this noon.

National Guardsmen at the west end evacuation area had reported earlier that most people (some had refused to move) who had left their homes were still out.

The situation in the city's east end was not similar. Patrolmen reported that people were moving back.

"**THEY DON'T** seem to realize that there still is a helluva lot of water out there," said one guard. "When they move back it makes our job tough. We're responsible for security, and there are people running all over. We're continually checking them. We have no authority to keep them out, though. We have been authorized to let them move their furniture and belongings back."

While shelters were going off active duty, Red Cross Headquarters was not relaxing. Morse said that 400 workers had been fed this morning.

"We're still not out of the woods," he said. "Shelters will remain on an immediate call basis should we need them and we won't relax our 24-hour set-up until Civil Defense advises that it no longer is necessary."

Council Acting On DST; Hokah, Houston Switch

Daylight saving time will be the subject of a special City Council meeting today at 4 p.m. at City Hall.

Council President Harold Briesath said he will propose the city coordinate its time change with that of Wisconsin. This would put Winona on daylight time a full month ahead of the state as a whole and would keep it thus until the end of October. Minnesota officially goes back to standard time at Labor Day.

President Briesath said local legislators believe a bill that would penalize cities for independent changes to daylight time has no chance of passage. The bill has been introduced but does not appear to have much support, he said.

In the event such a measure should pass the legislature and become law, the council would rescind any action it might have taken to adopt its own version of DST, he said.

Meanwhile, Houston, Minn., businessmen announced they'll go on DST at midnight Saturday. In step with Wisconsin's fast time beginning then, people there will move their clocks ahead one hour before retiring Saturday night.

HOKAH'S also going on DST. Public high school children come to Houston to school.

\$210 Given To City Flood Fund

A total of \$210 has been given thus far to a fund started to help alleviate the local tax burden resulting from flood-control costs here.

The fund, to be known as the City of Winona Flood Control Fund, will be turned over to the city government to help it meet some of the immediate expenses it has incurred in its efforts to hold the river back.

It was suggested by Dr. D. V. Boardman, who offered to start it with a gift of \$100.

Another \$100 donation came from Mrs. D. C. Alexander, and a gift of \$10 was sent by Mr. and Mrs. Leon Brozik, Minneapolis, former Winonans who went through the 1952 flood here.

Contributions to the fund may be sent to the Daily News. All donors will be listed.

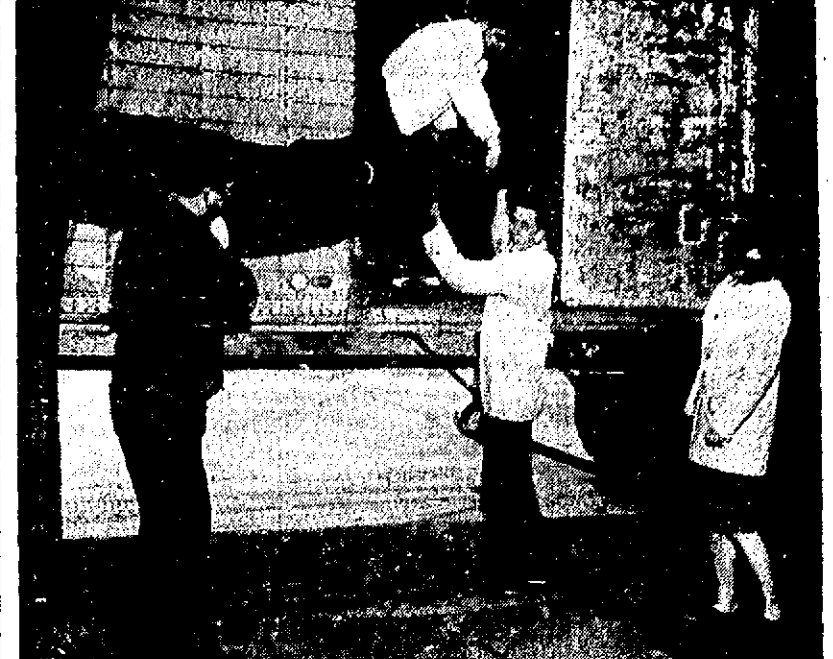
Lake Level Stays Down

A single 20-inch pump, operating by itself since last week end, appeared equal to the task of keeping Lake Winona levels under control.

Readings today showed the lake again had dropped in the 24-hour period. The reduction was slight—.05 of an inch—but satisfactory, engineers said.

Lake and river readings to date:

	Lake	River
April 10	9.56	12.81
April 11	9.51	13.33
April 12	9.48	14.06
April 13	9.29	14.81
April 14	8.96	15.71
April 15	8.80	17.62
April 16	8.56	19.10
April 17	8.46	19.07
April 18	8.38	20.12
April 19	8.29	20.67
April 20	8.23	20.67
April 21	8.24	20.39
April 22	8.19	20.07



CONFIDENCE IN DIKES . . . Mrs. Regina Vondrashek, 125 Chatfield St., who moved out today. Mrs. Vondrashek is standing by the van. (Daily News photo)

THE FLOOD FIGHT

Sewer Pressures Continuing High

By FRANK UHLIG
Daily News Staff Writer

City Engineer James Baird warned against public complacency again today but said flood defenses appear to be holding.

The greatest threat continues to be that to older part of the city sewer system. Hydrostatic pressures are very high, Baird said, and they can cause eruptions and flash flooding at any time.

THE INFLOW of water through sewers seems to have been checked. Water levels in large sandbagged "chimneys" surrounding two major breaks are being drawn down by pumping.

At 5th and Jefferson streets, water in the enclosure is down from 10 feet to one or two feet, with pumps operating well below capacity. The situation at 3rd and Mechanic streets is similar, Baird said.

Seepage has produced sizable pools of standing water in some locations, notably at Westfield Golf Course and along the east side of Mankato Avenue. At Westfield, the emergency dike is now holding back an estimated three feet of water.

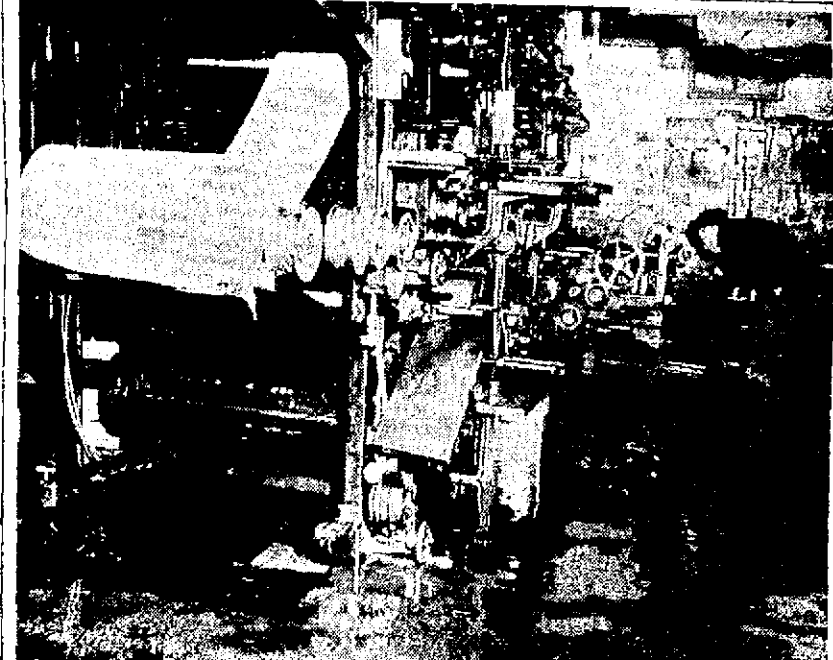
A **LARGE** arsenal of pumps has been thrown into the fight to keep down seepage levels and sewer overflow. Among these are 20 new 4-inch pumps on loan from 5th Army headquarters at St. Louis, Mo. Engineering office charts list the following units now in action:

One 20-inch; two 16-inch; 10 12-inch; eight 10-inch; one 8-inch; one 6-inch; one 5-inch; 10 4-inch; two 3-inch and one 2-inch.

In reserve are: seven 4-inch; one 4-inch and one 20-inch.

Baird said dike activity is at a constant level, with emphasis on patrolling and keeping emergency repair teams at the ready. A few minor breaks were repaired on the Prairie Island dike Wednesday, he said.

Observers reported only routine activities at other sections of the dike.



FLOODED PRESSROOM . . . Water was up to the rollers of the big newspaper press in the Leicht Press press room. This is in the basement. Motors are submerged. The depth is shown by its height on the man's legs. (Daily News photo)

SBA to Open Office for Flood Loans

The Small Business Association will establish a temporary office in the Winona Chamber of Commerce building Monday or Tuesday, Harry A. Sieben, regional director, has announced.

The SBA is prepared to move rapidly to assist flood victims in this area, Sieben said. He explained that individuals—including home owners and renters, business concerns and non-profit organizations are eligible for SBA disaster loans if they have suffered property loss as a result of the flood.

(Farmers and stockmen are not eligible for SBA loans, but should apply to the Farmers Home Administration.)

HAROLD LERUM, Minneapolis, will be in charge of the SBA office here. He was in town until this morning to make arrangements for opening the temporary office here next week.

Sieben, who was here Friday with Richard E. Lasser, Chicago, area SBA administrator, said another temporary office might be established in Wabasha by his agency.

To qualify for SBA loans, flood victims must furnish estimates of their losses and the costs of replacement, as well as other required information.

Sieben explained that the purpose of an SBA disaster loan is to help the victim restore his home or business property as nearly as possible to its pre-flood condition. There may also be some improvement of properties permitted in some instances, he said.

THERE IS no statutory limit on loans, but they may not exceed the actual tangible loss resulting from the flood. The maturity of these loans may be extended to as long as 20 years, and the interest rate is 3 percent.

Sieben said Winona banks have been supplied with additional information and application forms, and employees have volunteered to help flood victims by providing information on and assistance with SBA loan applications.



TESTING SANDBAGS . . . A member of the patrol on the Prairie Island dike uses a long stick to test the lower layer of sandbags for softness. When the bags along the edge become soaked they are apt to slush. Each patrolman carries a radio tuned to civilian defense headquarters. (Daily News photo)

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