

Rapid City Journal
May 2, 1946
Heavy Rainfall Slackens Today

The torrential rains of the past 48 hours had apparently tapered off today leaving minor destruction throughout the Hills in the form of blocked roads, and slight damage to fields lying along creek banks. Four families at Sturgis were evacuated last night from the edge of Bear Butte creek and several pulled back from the creek.

The rains, measuring up to nearly seven inches at Deadwood sent all creeks roaring out of their banks, caused miniature rockslides which temporarily blocked travel in Boulder Canyon and Whitewood hill and on the Burlington rail line near Deadwood but operations were normal again this morning.

Soft Shoulders

State highway department official warned motorists to "take it easy" because in many spots guard rails had been washed away and road shoulders are soft. At one time last night the highway between Sturgis and Fort Meade was under water but the creek reached its peak at 5 a.m. and has been receding since with subsequent clearing of the road.

Blizzard

Cheyenne, Wyo., May 2 -(AP) -Wyoming dug out today from a May blizzard that spread badly needed moisture throughout the eastern Rocky mountain region. Casper had 17 inches of wet, sticky snow in two days. A low temperature of 20 was recorded at Big Piney.

Telephone communications suffered from soaked lines in all towns and 25 men were working in Rapid City today to restore the shorted circuits. A tree fell across a toll line running through the state park at 7 p.m. last night but service was resumed at 2 a.m.

Trees were frequent victims of the storm because of the frost leaving the ground so recently. Snow plows were sent out to remove some venerable forest giants which blocked Highway 85 west of deadwood early this morning and to clear rock from roads.

Remove Furniture

State highway employees at Sturgis under Superintendent Ivan H. Bell kept constant patrol of the creek there yesterday and as the flood mounted removed the furniture from the homes of Mike Quick, Mrs. Katherine Moraveck, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gordon and "Sandy" Cooper.

A wall of water then tore away the bank from under several houses and trucks and tractors were employed to pull the buildings to higher ground. In all, at least ten houses were moved to a safe distance from the raging creek. The force of the flood tore out retaining wall and 50 feet of sidewalk between Sturgis and Fort Meade.

A survey was being made today by the Meade county Red Cross chapter with the view of providing aid for families who suffered from the flood. No estimate of the damage was available this afternoon. Mrs. Robert Hardie, executive secretary and Bruce Barnes of the home service committee, will report on the damage.

Small bridges were floated away on Big Elk creek and several farms.