

STORM TAKES TOLL IN SOUTH FLORIDA CITIES

HUNDREDS DEAD OVER STORM AREA, FAMINE AND THIRST THREATEN

Thousands Reported Injured After Force of Hurricane Leaves East Coast and Lake Okeechobee Regions Devastated—West Coast Suffers Heavy Property Damage But Escapes Loss of Life.

(Continued from Page 1)

Fuel, water and medical supplies were urgently needed in the stricken cities and vicinity.

The Associated Press staff correspondent in Miami was the first to reach the outside world with the story from the stricken city of Miami. He left that town at 4:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon and traveled through woods and railroad tracks over which the water was flowing. In a blinding rain he proceeded on foot north to Fort Lauderdale. Telephone and telegraph poles and wires blocked the road. He walked the railroad track to Fort Lauderdale and slept in the Women's club with 50 refugees. There water was so scarce it was portioned out half a glass at a time. Frightened and anxious persons asked for information. The correspondent reached West Palm Beach today and sent his story to the Associated Press members.

Jacksonville, West Palm Beach, Tampa, Fort Pierce and other places rushed medical aid, food and water to the storm area. The work was carried out under the direction of Chairman Slocum Ball, of the Red Cross committee.

Governor Martin took immediate steps to alleviate conditions as soon as he learned of the severity of the situation. Advised that the American Red Cross had placed its entire facilities at his command, the governor asked that organization to direct the relief work. He also issued a special call for physicians to go with the relief workers. Hundreds of these, together with nurses and many civilians, went aboard special trains tonight to be hurried into the Miami district. Relief trains were sent tonight also into the Moore Haven and Clewiston sections.

Clewiston Wiped Out, Says Airman After Trip

AVON PARK, Sept. 19.—(Tribune News Service.)—Clewiston has been virtually washed off the map and Moore Haven has suffered tremendously, according to Ralph DeVore, aviator, who returned to the local aviation field this afternoon after an exploration trip to the devastated region on the west and southwest shores of Lake Okeechobee.

DeVore describes the scene of desolation as "horrible." He reports there is nothing left at Clewiston, the terminus of the Atlantic Coast Line Scenic Highlands branch and from which it is reported the road planned to be built into Miami. Another relief train is being organized at Sebring to follow the one which started south early this morning but which is still held up by washouts at Lake Stearns. The railroad depot has been washed away, while only piles of debris remain of the residential sections of the once thriving truck center. The business blocks, he said, were still standing and there were some people moving about the streets in water at least knee deep. The huge oil tanks have floated away and he reports he saw gondolas and other railroad cars three miles away from the tracks. The railroad skirts the lake shore at this point. DeVore cruised over the two townships and scenic route about an hour, he states, and it was at his urging that the second relief train was organized with doctors drafted from Avon Park and Sebring. He says he saw no corpses but adds he cannot conceive of conditions being as they are without a corresponding loss of life.

Night of Terror
Stories of a ghastly night in darkness, with a hurricane sweeping the lake through Moore Haven were told by Dr. J. W. Mitchell, Sebring physician, upon his return from the stricken city tonight. He went immediately back with the relief train.

"It seems that at least 100 are dead," he said, "though it will take several days to check the total." He told of 23 being drowned when two-story frame building in which they had taken refuge, collapsed. Others of the victims were washed or blown from the roofs of houses to which they were driven by the rising water.

There is hardly a frame building in the city on its original foundation, he said, some of them having been floated as far as a block and two blocks from their original position. He said the drainage dyke built around the city at a cost of several hundreds of thousands of dollars has been wrecked.

Nothing is standing, he said, except the brick business blocks and school house. The big Moore Haven hotel, on the walls of which are signs of water 12 feet from the floor was lifted off its brick piers and set down on the ground. Bodies of negroes are being washed up on the railroad grade on the outskirts of the city, he said.

Preparations are being made to bring the people out of the town and Avon Park, Sebring, DeSoto City, Lake Stearns, and Venus are preparing to take care of the refugees. The dead probably will be brought to Sebring and Avon Park to await disposition by their relatives.

Dr. Mitchell stated that trains can get within three miles of Moore Haven unless more rains fall tonight.

Millions Of Dollars Spent On Ruined Developments

Real estate activity of the last five years has seen millions of dollars poured into developments, modern hotels, sub-division, apartment houses, homes, public utilities, schools and churches along the lower coastal section of the peninsula which bore the brunt of the hurricane.

Wild Life Suffers Heavily In Floods About Okeechobee

AVON PARK, Sept. 19.—(Tribune News Service.)—Animals in the Everglades were among the worst sufferers from the storm. Persons arriving here today from the Lake Okeechobee area said a number were killed and hundreds of rats, rabbits and other small wild animals were seen floating in the water that covered the town of Moore Haven. The section around Lake Okeechobee is Florida's biggest cattle raising area, and an enormous loss is reported in the livestock industry.

completion of the Florida East Coast Railway line south of West Palm Beach.

The Miami Tribune plant, reported destroyed, was situated several blocks from the waterfront. At Hollywood, a city with an estimated population of 15,000, developments of the last few years have reached into the millions of dollars. A \$3,000,000 hotel, the most ambitious unit of the Hollywood building program, fronts directly on the ocean beach, and a three mile concrete boardwalk has been laid in winter months to rival the color of Atlantic City's boardwalk.

Dania, also mentioned in dispatches as having sustained heavy loss, is situated two miles north of Hollywood, and within the corporate limits of the latter city. Fort Lauderdale, an important metropolis and shipping center, has an estimated population of 25,000. Pompano, six miles to the north, Yonkers, Lake Worth, Del Ray and other coastal cities swept by the gale, are important winter resort centers.

Hialeah, where several deaths are reported, is located seven miles northwest of Miami, and is more than ten miles inland. Here is the pretentious racing plant of the Miami Jockey club, known to thousands of winter visitors and tourists.

Schooner In Distress
ANASTASIA ISLAND, Sept. 19.—(A.P.)—The schooner Lydia Baxter, New York, was anchored in 17 fathoms of water and making badly 20 miles north of Jupiter this afternoon. It was reported to the United States government radio station here, a small schooner, the second reported wreck in the hurricane. The vessel was said to have had all of its sails ripped off by the heavy winds.

A revenue cutter was requested by the boat which was said to have been in an emergency.

Dispatches of the schooner's plight were relayed from other vessels, the local station "picking up" the news during the early afternoon.

Vessels Sail
JACKSONVILLE, Sept. 19.—(A.P.)—The first ships to clear the harbor for three days were the Clyde liner Apache which sailed for New York today via Charleston and the Merchants' Lines steamer Pacific which cleared for Baltimore via Savannah.

Other vessels remained in port tonight because of blustery weather and high seas which have prevailed off the Jacksonville beaches for the past three days.

Both vessels which sailed today will put back into port here if another blow is indicated, captains announced.

St. Petersburg Suffers
ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 19.—(A.P.)—Thousands of trees were uprooted, roofs damaged and two persons sustained minor injuries during a 75-mile gale that reached its peak about 2 o'clock this morning, but no damage of a serious nature has been reported. The storm started Saturday afternoon and subsided this morning. Flood tides this afternoon caused by the storm shifting from northeast to southeast damaged small levees and at 6 p. m. the tide was still rising.

MOORE HAVEN RELIEF PARTIES WADE WAIST DEEP TO REACH TOWN

SEBRING, Sept. 19.—(Tribune News Service.)—More than 100 men from Sebring, who formed a relief party to the Moore Haven district early this morning, were forced to wade waist deep through the devastated town. Moore Haven is isolated and rescue parties were forced to abandon special boats and to reach the region several miles from the town.

Water in the town is from six to 15 feet deep. Virtually every structure is destroyed. The storm was at hurricane force from midnight Friday until this morning at 2 o'clock.

RAINSTORMS DAMAGE CUBAN SUGAR CROPS

HAVANA, Sept. 19.—(Universal Service.)—The tropical hurricane was there several rainstorms in the central part of the island doing some damage to the sugar crops, but it is declared that these rainstorms were purely local.

The lumber-laden bark Niguan-tanamo which sailed from this port several days ago, has been wrecked somewhere in the Gulf of Mexico. The fate of the crew has not been determined.

WEST COAST ISLANDS HIT HARD BY STORM; MANY BELIEVED DEAD

ONE PERSON INJURED AND MANY HOMES DAMAGED AT PUNTA GORDA

Churches and Business Buildings Blown In; Relief Being Organized

PUNTA GORDA, Sept. 19.—(Tribune News Service.)—With nearly every building in the city and suburbs damaged, Punta Gorda turned tonight from its own relief, to organize parties to go to the islands south of here, including Boca Grande from which alarming rumors have been circulated.

Great loss of life and property damage have been reported from the islands, but nothing has been confirmed.

First Train Arrives
Punta Gorda has been out of communication with the outside world since Saturday morning when the storm struck here and the first train since Saturday arrived this afternoon over the Atlantic Coast Line.

One person was injured here, Wanda Bassett, 14, was struck by a piece of flying roofing and received a broken arm.

Hardly a building escaped damage. The bell tower and vestry of the Episcopal church were blown into the street and blocked traffic. Several windows were smashed and damage to the church was estimated at \$20,000. The roof was torn off the Baptist church, and no church services were held today.

The new brick structure of the Methodist church was damaged. A gable of the primary room was demolished and several memorial windows were blown out.

Hotel Windows Smashed
A large section of the roof of the new Kettas two-story building was blown off, falling against the Hotel Charlotte Harbor and smashing some of the hotel windows.

The upper part of the two-story Johnson block was blown out. Big sections of the brick walls of the Hewitt garage and the Welch block were demolished.

Nearly every residence in the city suffered.

BUSINESS BUILDINGS AT CLEARWATER HIT BY WIND AND WATER

NEW HOTEL FORT HARRISON DAMAGED; ROAD IS BLOCKED

Causeway Over Harbor Safe And Belleair and Other Suburbs Escape Losses

CLEARWATER, Sept. 19.—(Tribune News Service.)—Estimated storm damage here reached \$100,000, mostly within the downtown section.

A part of the roof of the McColl building, two-story structure on South Fort Harrison avenue, was lifted by the wind and fell, crushing the awnings and breaking windows. The buildings were flooded.

The roof of the two-story Baskin building, store and apartments, also was damaged and the interior flooded.

The roof on the tannery of the new Fort Harrison hotel was blown away and a number of windows were smashed.

CITRUS CROP LOSS IN POLK COUNTY TO TOTAL \$2,000,000

BARTOW, Sept. 19.—(Tribune News Service.)—Damage to the Polk county citrus crop from last night's storm was roughly estimated at \$2,000,000 by C. H. Walker, grower.

Thousands on thousands of boxes of grapefruit and oranges were on the ground today, while in exposed groves, especially old seedlings, many of the trees were blown over and will have to be replaced.

J. B. Rust, manager of the Polk Sub-Exchange, said grapefruit suffered a heavier loss than oranges, with a total damage of approximately 15 percent.

SPONGE FLEET SAFE IN TARPON SPRINGS HARBOR DURING BLOW

DAMAGE IN THAT TOWN LIMITER CHIEFLY TO FALLEN WIRES

Minor Losses Reported From Arcadia and Bartow As Result of Storm

TARPON SPRINGS, Sept. 19.—(Tribune Special.)—Little harm was done here by the storm except to trees, shrubbery and electric wires. Slight damage to the fill for the new municipal beach may be disclosed, however, when the present exceptionally high tide flows out.

The high tension electric lines from Tampa, St. Petersburg and Dunellon are down, but probably will be restored to service tomorrow. Mean-while electric current is being supplied by the municipal plant. Clearwater is the only outside point with which telephone communication is possible today.

All vessels, including the Tarpon which left here, were safe in harbor, either here or at Cedar Keys, when the storm began. No damage was done by the high tide which succeeded the exceptional ebb of last night.

Damage at Arcadia
ARCADIA, Sept. 19.—(Tribune Special.)—Two service stations were leveled to the ground and several small homes were ruined by the result of last night's hurricane.

Telegraph and electric light wires in many sections of the city were blown down. No injuries were reported.

Wires Down at Bartow
BARTOW, Sept. 19.—(Tribune Special.)—Damage to Bartow and the surrounding countryside were confined to utilities, wires in some places being blown down. Small buildings and outhouses were demolished. None was reported injured.

The strong wind was accompanied by heavy rains.

Passenger Steamer Washed Ashore on West Indian Island
WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—(Universal Service.)—A United Fruit Company ship, caught in the fury of the Florida hurricane, has been washed upon the beach at the southern tip of San Salvador Island, an unpopulated island in the West Indian communications state tonight.

The name of the ship was unknown. It was reported.

Radio flashes stated that the steamer's call for help had been received by the United States Navy, and that the United States Navy was on its way to that region on their way to maneuvers at Guantanamo, Cuba. Destroyers have been dispatched to take off the passengers and crew of the stranded vessel. It was reported.

INFLOWING TIDE AT SARASOTA INUNDATES BUSINESS DISTRICT

PROPERTY DAMAGE CONSIDERABLE BUT NO LIVES ARE LOST

Trucking District Suffers Heavily—Wind Shatters Windows

A large part of Sarasota was flooded yesterday including some of the business district, and its property loss was amount to not less than \$500,000. The city, however, emerged from the grip of the storm without loss of life.

This news was brought from Sarasota by L. R. Hutchinson, Tampa district manager for the Venice Company, on his return from a trip to that section of the gulf coast. Much of the Venice district, too, was under water, as were many acres of celery and other valuable crops in the fertile truck farm district of Manatee county.

The storm at Sarasota was worse than that of 1921, and at its height the wind attained an estimated velocity of 100 miles an hour. Hundreds of windows were shattered, many roofs were blown away and several buildings of cheap construction were demolished.

Torrential rainfall accompanied the storm, flooding even high parts of the city. The height of the inundation came, however, with the flow of the tide, which went out with the storm to a point five feet below its mean low level. With its return, streets near the bay shore were submerged to a depth of several feet, exactly as was the case in 1921. The water backed up into streets and basins, creating virtual lakes at points along the principal highways leading into the city.

Vast areas of the keys along Sarasota bay were under water, Mr. Hutchinson said.

The Atlantic Coast Line passenger train which left Sarasota for Tampa this morning was obliged to stop at a point below Manatee, and return to Sarasota. The bridge across the Manatee river at Bradenton was closed to traffic and Mr. Hutchinson returned to Tampa through the courtesy of the master of a pilot boat. Damage at Bradenton seemed to be confined principally to trees and shrubbery, no estimate being possible at present.

BARTOW'S BIG TREES FELLED BY HIGH WIND

BARTOW, Sept. 19.—(Tribune News Service.)—The beautiful old oaks that line Bartow streets suffered the heaviest damage here. Approximately 100 were blown over or split in two, and the city is knee deep in moss and branches.

Little damage was done to buildings, but this is being credited to the wind break offered by the giant trees. Light and telephone service was badly crippled last night but is being repaired as fast as the city crews can operate.

CROPS DAMAGED IN WAUCHULA TERRITORY

WAUCHULA, Sept. 19.—(Tribune News Service.)—Heavy damage to citrus and vegetable crops throughout Hardee county were reported here today, but no estimate of the loss has been compiled.

Thousands of trees were uprooted in this section and the city has been in darkness and isolated since early last night.

A number of business places and homes were damaged, but the stores were reopened today to supply groceries to the rural sections.

DAMAGE IS SLIGHT ALONG UPPER RIDGE

WINTER HAVEN, Sept. 19.—(Tribune News Service.)—Only damage of a minor nature, such as fallen signs and broken windows, was reported here from Duvenport, Haines City, Avon Park and other points on the upper ridge.

FORT MYERS HAS HEAVY LOSS FROM WIND AND FLOODS

Seventy-Five Mile Gale Sweeps City Without Warning—Houses Torn From Foundations, Trees and Wires Leveled, Though None Lose Lives—Repair Work Immediately Started By Residents.

PORT MYERS, Sept. 19.—(Tribune News Service.)—Disregarding the Sabbath, Fort Myers was busy today repairing the damage wrought by the 75-mile wind which struck shortly before noon yesterday and took everything before it for 15 hours. Until after 1 o'clock today the city was isolated from the outside world, with all lines of communication off, light and power crippled and traffic at a standstill. More than four feet of water stood in some sections of the city.

Thousands of automobiles were deserted after having been drowned out in the terrific downpour, and the property damage in the city has been estimated at nearly \$1,000,000.

The city's beautiful royal palms were torn and uprooted, while a number of ligues were demolished. The roofs of others were torn off and blown into the streets. A Methodist church was completely wrecked, while other churches suffered damage from the water and wind. The citrus crop of Leo county, according to C. P. Wright, county farm agent, who made a tour of inspection this morning, is 90 percent destroyed.

The plants of crates of green oranges and grapefruit were dashed to bits and the fruit trees were uprooted and destroyed.

Strikes Without Warning
The storm swept this city without warning. The weather bureau had announced it was due to come around Miami, but there was no indication that it would take a turn to the west. It struck with a force which the velocity of which increased for four hours. At 4 o'clock yesterday it reached its peak, and the city was torn asunder.

The greatest damage was inflicted to warehouses. The recently constructed storehouse of Foxworthy and Lee, local furniture dealers, along with a store of new furniture, valued at approximately \$50,000, was destroyed, while the entire front of the new Starnes block, including a row of store rooms, collapsed.

The front two-story store and office building, in the exact end, was torn down and spread across the street. Soft drink and lunch stands were blown away, while the tourist camp was leveled during the early part of the storm. The grandstand at the ball park was partly torn-down, and the picturesque tropical gardens on the estate of Thomas A. Edison.

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The Injured

(Continued from Page 1)
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Earl Ranks.
Mrs. Storm.
Mrs. Charles Schill.
George Stein.
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PERSHING DECLINES OFFER
WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—(A.P.)—General John J. Pershing made it be a candidate for promotion, commander of the American Legion and would not accept the post if offered him.

GENERAL HOWZE DIES
COLUMBUS, O., Sept. 19.—(A.P.)—Major General Robert Lee Howze, 62, commanding officer of the 5th Army corps area, United States Army, died here today after an operation, yesterday, for gall bladder trouble.