

Basic Detail Report

A Commentary on the Flood

"Hurricane Diane, the second tropical storm of the season is veering away from the northeast" was the weather report on Thursday, August 18th. However the torrential rains which Connecticut and the eastern seaboard was experiencing gave no indication of the storms abating.

On Friday morning many of our employees found it difficult to get to work-those reporting told stories of wash-outs, rising rivers, and streams, and a general concern for their homes and properties ability to withstand the continuing storm. The rains continued and if anything seemed to be increasing in intensity.

The Park River, flowing north & south, by this time (8:15 A.M.) had started overflowing its banks.

At 8:30 A.M. the Park River continued to rise posing an immediate threat to the main plant.

At 9:00 A.M. surface water started coming into the Press Room and a hurry-up call was made for two sump pumps to assist in throwing the creeping waters from the sub-basement.

At 10:00 A.M. the pumps arrived and were immediately pressed into service.

The surface water continued to rise and started flowing through the Press Room door and through the low-lying windows.

At 10:05 A.M. parts in process, inspection equipment, raw stock material, time cards, dies, paper work, and movable furniture were moved away from the on-rushing water and out of the Press Room.

10:15 A.M. - Press operators, who by this time had water to cope with in tripping the machine pedals, were told to leave the floor.

There was no evidence of a slowing up of the water and it appeared that complete evacuation of the area was imminent.

10:30 A.M. - The cesspool in the tumbling room, drains in the Press Room and water in the toilets started backing up.

10:45 A.M. - Water was now a foot and a half deep - evacuation of costly dies and equipment continued.

10:50 A.M. - The Park River overflowed and its waters, coupled with the surface water started creeping into the parking area, storage shed, and into the Press Room.

11:00 A.M. - Water was waist high and furniture, compressors, and other debris was floating in the water.

11:10 A.M. - Water was 5 feet deep and the main switch was ordered pulled to prevent the electrocution of those working in the water.

At 11:15 A.M. - operating without lights and with debris floating everywhere, everyone was ordered out of the Press Room.

12:30 P.M. - water had reached ceiling height - 9 feet - coming as far as the top step in the basement (Tool Room and Repair Department).

Precautions were then taken and all material on the floor in the Tool Room and Repair Department was placed on benches.

However the rains stopped after a record breaking accumulation of 1 1/4 inches in 24 hours, and the immediate threat appeared ended.

The following day (Saturday) saw the start of a remarkable, efficient, and rapid rehabilitation.

One week later it was hard to visualize the damage and havoc the plant had incurred.

"Business as usual" was the word on Monday, August 29th, and the events of the previous week seemed a distant memory.

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published by M. H. Rhodes, Inc. The article is titled, "A Commentary on the

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Flood." The article provides a timeline of how quickly the waters of the Park

River began to rise and eventually flood the surrounding areas.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall height x width): 11 × 8 1/2in. (27.9 ×

21.6cm)