

Flash floods hit southeastern U.S.; at least nine dead

Flash floods spawned by two days of hard-driving spring rains forced at least 6,000 persons from their homes in Mississippi and Alabama on Saturday and overflowed rivers and streams across the Southeast.

associated press

At least nine deaths—four each in Mississippi and Alabama and one in Georgia—were blamed on the flooding. The unusually heavy rains began Wednesday night and ended Friday afternoon.

President Carter declared a state of emergency in Mississippi Saturday to make the state eligible for federal aid.

Tornado aftermath

Wichita Falls, Texas—Weary residents of this ravaged city buried more of their dead Saturday as Red Cross volunteers readied Easter baskets for the children, some orphaned and others left homeless by a tornado.

First Baptist Church, the city's largest, expanded its scheduled Easter service at the municipal auditorium to accommodate members of 10 congregations whose churches were demolished by Thursday's twister.

Meanwhile, the seemingly endless

stream of funerals for the 44 persons killed continued Saturday. Fourteen burials were held Friday and Saturday, and the remainder were postponed until after Easter.

American Red Cross teamed with United Parcel Service to collect and deliver Easter baskets to the children of the homeless.

Schooner safe in port

Wilmington, Del.—The disabled *Pride of Baltimore* was towed into the port of Wilmington Saturday, ending a 7,000-mile journey that almost turned to disaster when the schooner ran aground on a Delaware Bay shoal in high winds.

Relatives of the 11 crew members watched as the Coast Guard patrol boat *Point Franklin* pulled the ship up to the Wilmington Marine Terminal dock, where it will undergo repairs.

The city of Baltimore launched the *Pride*, a Bicentennial project, in 1977 and operates the ship as a goodwill and promotional ambassador.

Modeled after the famous Baltimore clippers of the early 19th century, the *Pride* was the object of an air and sea search after it failed to arrive in Norfolk, Va. Tuesday on its way back to Baltimore from a Caribbean cruise.

Chemical plant blasts

Ventura, Calif.—An unexplained series of explosions rocked a petrochemical plant

here Saturday, seriously burning one worker, fire officials said. The explosions occurred at the USA Petrochem plant, which was cited last year for alleged negligence because of an explosion that killed one person and injured several others.

Volcano erupts again

Kingstown, St. Vincent—Soufriere volcano, in a new outburst Saturday, hurled showers of rocks and ashes over this Caribbean island as residents continued to flee their homes.

Premier Milton Cato called the fresh activity a "definite eruption." He said steam was shooting 20,000 feet into the air, and the situation "is ominous." He also said steam was seeping from the ground at Chateaubelair Island, on the northeast coast of St. Vincent.

There were no reports of lava spilling from the Soufriere crater.

An estimated 10,000 residents have fled to relief centers.

Cato said experts were trying to determine if the explosions were caused by trapped steam that would pose less of a danger.

Soufriere's last major eruption occurred in 1902, killing about 2,000 persons. The volcano was dormant until 1972, when it rumbled to life, forcing the evacuation of the immediate area.

Five killed in Iran

Tehran, Iran—Iranian firing squads executed five army and police officers Saturday, state radio reported.

The deaths bring to 124 the number executed since the revolutionaries of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini came to power two months ago. The executed included

Brig. Gen. Jahangir Esfandiari, found guilty of murder and torture charges, the radio said. Esfandiari was Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi's martial-law administrator in the oil-rich western region of Abadan and Khorramshahr.

Blast kills 26

Seoul, South Korea—A dynamite blast aboard railway cars taking miners into a coal mine Saturday killed 20 persons and injured 34 others. Two were missing. Police said the explosion occurred at Hambaek mine 100 miles southeast of Seoul on a coal car carrying nearly 100 pounds of dynamite and 214 detonators.

Germany shackles press

Berlin—East Germany slapped massive new restrictions Saturday on Western correspondents, including a ban on "man in the street" interviews which have not been cleared by authorities.

Effective immediately, Western correspondents must inform the East German Foreign Ministry 24 hours in advance before traveling outside East Berlin.

All interviews with East Germans must first be cleared with authorities, the party newspaper *Neues Deutschland* announced.

Correspondents also will be required to show accounts for all income and expenditures made in East Germany, *Neues Deutschland* said.

Western observers said the new restrictions are apparently aimed at increasing police surveillance of foreign reporters in East Germany. The country is already considered one of the tightest in the Soviet bloc for news gathering by Western reporters.

Professor . . .

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Botts said that, although he enjoyed newspaper work, money was the main reason he quit the *Journal*.

"I took about a week or 10 days to think about it. I enjoyed every day I ever worked on a newspaper, but I had a family to think about. In those days, you could make more teaching than you could on a newspaper."

For Botts, teaching provided an opportunity for a pay raise without the necessity of moving for by 1966, he had finished building his own house, an endeavor which took him from 1952 to 1962.

"We were pretty poor at the time." He started out with a basement house and built it up gradually, he said.

"My wife drew the plan, and we hired our neighbor to put up the frame. I had some help, and I had the plumbing and wiring done, but I did most of the work. We could only build as fast as money came in. We'd have a flurry for a while, then nothing would get done for several months."

Difficult transition

Botts said he found the transition from working journalist to teacher difficult.

"You have to think differently. You have to be more careful, because it's really easy to mislead students. Something you say in a casual conversation can be devastating later on. You have to gear down a

little and adjust your expectations to class levels."

Teaching, he said, is "harder in a different kind of way. At the end of every day on a newspaper, it's over. Nothing is carried over. But teaching, you may have some things drag on for two years."

Gratification for teachers, he said, is less obvious than in the newspaper business.

"A lot of teaching is putting people in a position to learn. You really shouldn't take so much credit. For a lot of students, it's only a matter of stepping back and getting out of the way. You're never quite sure of your successes or failures."

Enjoys teaching

Despite the absence of immediate gratification, Botts said, he enjoys teaching because of "working with people. . . There are so many different, interesting people around. You see so many different stages of maturity."

The students he deals with now, he said, are "a lot different" from those he went to school with.

"It seems like students today were a lot more blasé. They used to be excited about everything, but not any more. It used to be that, if someone got a job offer, they'd run all the way to the application. Now, if a student hears about a job, he might look into it and he might not."

Botts, 54, and his wife, Dorris, have four children.

Tennis—Racquetball

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