

Terrific Tempest And Sea Excite Fear And Terror As Storm Hits Branford

Nearly All Sections Of Town Experience Some Loss As Afternoon Hurricane Strikes Town — WPA and Utility Crews Are Joined By Volunteer Workers

The town is a maze puzzle. The fringe of a tropical hurricane hit here Wednesday afternoon and was immediately followed by a tremendous sea which left disaster in its wake.

Branford is a sorry sight of waste. Rescue work went on all Wednesday night and will continue until all roads are clear and safe for traffic. First Selectmen Gurdon Bradley has crews in all parts of the village and work is progressing as rapidly as may be expected.

Utilities have been interrupted but not entirely discontinued. Gas and water pipe breaks are under repair and some points about town continue to have all services.

Auto traffic is holding back repair work and sightseers are urged to keep away from precarious trees, poles and wires.

Because of interrupted service and impossible roads it has been useless to attempt to ascertain the extent of the damage.

It is a sober day. Some degree of the loss may be derived from the following:

Every Cloud Has Silver Lining

The terrifying experiences of the last two days had also a spark of humanness beneath.

Attention in many sections is being given homeless birds and squirrels.

At Doctor Thompson's an adorable antique baby carriage came to light.

Children spent a glorious day playing in the abandoned trolley car in Short Beach.

On the beach at Stony Creek a lone bath tub two hundred feet from any house emphasizes the force of the storm.

Mrs. Ben Nelson made an effort Wednesday to rescue a coop of drowning chickens.

One refugee worker tells of saving three gold fish from a muddy stream, presumably having gone over the top of Mrs. Robert Noerr garden pool.

An early morning milk deliverman tells of finding three one dollar bills floating with the fourth just evacuating an empty bottle on a customer's back porch.

Frank Page, Summer Island was surprised to find his cottage mov-

Fourth Ward is in fair condition and so is Montowese Street.

At 130 West Main Street the home of Mr. Richkowski, a tin roof rolled up as if it were a carpet.

The loss on the Green can never be replaced.

Marvelous trees are gone out East Main Street way.

Ray Sparico's tree is in a tottering corner of his roof. August Altermatt's house, East Main Street and the Regan Cabin vicinity was entirely flooded. Ward's ice house was in the midst of a terrific stream overflowing the dam.

The Hammer properties and the former Dr. Tenney home, St. Mary's Church are only a few to regret the hurricane.

Charles Blackstone's 150 year old barn could not withstand the force, parts of the roof and chimney crumbled into the house.

Teddy Enquist's son was pinned beneath the tips of a tree and was rescued by a worker returning from work at the M. I. F.

Alex Struzinski's lost two cows, two horses, chickens, pigs and the best part of a barn.

PINE ORCHARD

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The Alexis Gregory and one of the Smith houses are said to be off their foundations and the Arthur Lane home has been moved 40 feet from its pinions.

About 20 yachts are ruined at the Sheldon House and on Sheldon House Hill 40 or more trees have fallen. Workmen estimate the roads will not be passable for three or four days.

BRANFORD POINT

Parker Memorial Park's sea wall constructed of Stony Creek granite and bath houses are intact but the trees are in a bad state. Harbor Street nearest the Point was in a wrecked condition but passable.

Averill's cottages and stores were torn and Doctor Wilson E. Thompson's store and summer home appear to be beyond repair, the first floor having been entirely washed out to sea.

The roof is off the Yacht Club building and the windows are all cracked or broken.

Boats are ashore all along the harbor. A few fine ones are submerged and many smaller crafts are capsized.

The Point road is a snarled upheaval.

SHORT BEACH

Bartlett's boats, Mansfield Grove are probably those being cared for at the Bay View Filling Station.

Mrs. Homer Sheppard and her mother were forced from their home at Sheppard's Point and passed the entire night in the woods with trees crashing all about them..

Mrs. Alexander Murphy was rescued from a sailboat by Roger Kelsey and Edwin R. Kelsey, Jr., of Kelsey's Point who in a power boat spent three hours before they were

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able to bring her to safety at the Branford Harbor.

The greatest toll was taken at Granite Bay.

The attractive Rocky Point, known as the Dr. McGuire summer home was undermined, the sea wall demolished and otherwise damaged.

Miss Ruth Doerfler, her mother and her nephew were forced to evacuate when the front porch tumbled and the garage attached simply vanished.

Next door, all that remains of the Pierpont cottage is a lawn mower and a fireplace chimney. Berkeley owned by Mrs. E. Read of West Haven is thoroughly undermined.

The garage adjoining the home of Mrs. Reardon left is foundation and started traveling toward East Haven.

Mrs. Etta Nesbit's Lollipop is completely gone. Some of the lumber being located in the A. A. Young yard, Stone Street. The gas stove found a resting place 50 feet beyond

In the road was a demolished mirror, piano and hot water boiler—and a trolley car. Eight feet more and the car would have tumbled into the sea for the heavy rip rap was torn from the edge and taken goodness knows where.

Thursday morning's incoming tide continued to undermine the road bed.

The road surface is a jumbled mass in some spots knee deep in sand and debris. At Casper Matson's Shady Nook the sand has been carried almost as high as the windows.

Vernon Keisey, of Riverside found it impossible last evening to drive through the water at the Creek so he parked in the Edward Walker front yard. Thurs. morning it was discovered partially buried, the windows broken and driftwood piled neatly in the back seat.

The Elizabeth Rogers, Silas Stowe and Edward Walker homes were minus porches and foundations when the waters receded. Frank Dendas and Louis DeAngelis found Stanley's pier and dock obstructing passage to their porch doors.

Upper Granite Bay escaped the tidal fury but experienced the loss of trees, fences, garages and porches.

Three houses are reported to have sailed away at Brockett's Point and the tree damage is tremendous at the Lanphier Homestead occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Leon Babcock. Mrs. Grace Vredenburg lost dozens of large trees on the main road and a road crew worked hours clearing from Forrester Hammer's to the Double Beach Road.

PAWSON PARK

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Pawson Park as viewed from the wreckage at the public dock appeared to be in a respectable state.

HOTCHKISS GROVE

Hotchkiss Grove suffered more from water than from fallen trees. The beach and road have gone to sea and 4th and 5th Avenues are still inundated.

INDIAN NECK

Limewood Avenue, Indian Neck near the Palmer Casino is a wreckage of branches and the road was impassable because of the depth of the sand on the pavement. Entry from Indian Neck Avenue was blocked. Severe loss was experienced at the Montowese House.

Sea wall at Montowese is entirely gone. The Ark damaged and 12 garages swept away. Montowese bath houses "just ain't."

JOHNSON'S POINT

A crushed and broken archway of trees isolated Johnson's Point during the storm. Workmen got busy at daybreak and last evening the road was clear but the pleasant shade of a day previous was a sad sight. Some repairs are necessary to the Philip English house.

BROCKETT'S POINT

Because of highway obstructions the loss at Brockett's Point, Lanphier's Cove and Robinson's Point is undetermined. It is believed that three cottages were lost.

Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Beals remained as long as it was safe and today enter their cottage, Westwood Road, Short Beach.

Casa Loma lost its roof and damage was done to the Richard Carlson home.

A coast guard cutter worked around Pine Orchard and Stony Creek Thursday and three police officers are stationed at Pine Orchard and four at Stony Creek to protect property from prowlers. They will continue on duty until electric service is restored.

Clifford Collins, Indian Neck was on the boat in which Simon Etzel, 48 of New Haven was washed ashore on the beach at Plum Banks and lost his life.

JRSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1938
