FLOOD HAZARD ANALYSES

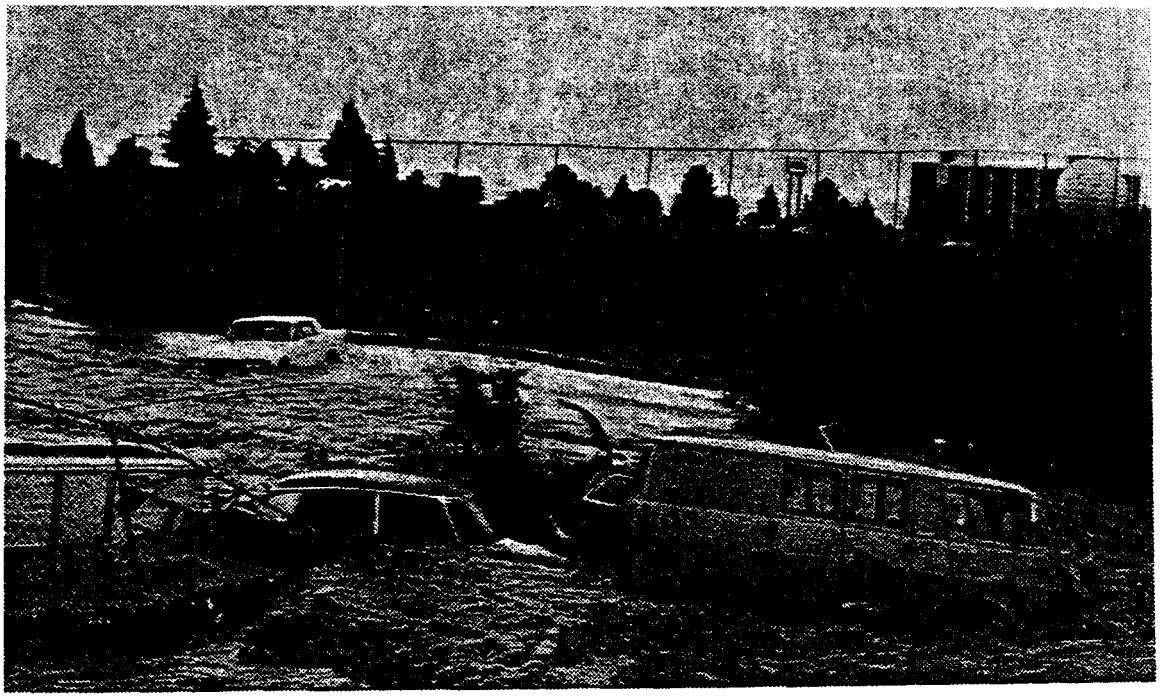
Las Vegas Wash and Tributaries

Clark County, Nevada

SPECIAL REPORT

History of Flooding, Clark County, Nevada

1905-1975



Prepared By

ed States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service

In Cooperation With

Clark County Conservation District,
City and County Entities of Clark County, Nevada,
and
Nevada Division of Water Resources

August 1977

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Soil Conservation Service
Reno, Nevada

F L O O D H A Z A R D A N A L Y S E S

Las Vegas Wash and Tributaries
Clark County, Nevada

SPECIAL REPORT

History of Flooding, Clark County, Nevada 1905-75

Prepared in Cooperation With

Clark County Conservation District
Clark County Public Works Department
City of Las Vegas Public Works Department
City of North Las Vegas Public Works Department
Nevada Division of Water Resources

August 1977

Clark County Conservation Di

310 Almond Tree Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104

Board of Supervisors
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Raymond Anderson, Associate Member

Dear Friends,

The Clark County Conservation District joins other local governmental entities in sponsoring this Special Report, History of Flooding, Clark County, Nevada. This report was prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, as a part of the Las Vegas Wash Flood Hazard Analyses.

The District feels that this information should be made available to the public, so that present and future residents of Clark County may become more informed on flood hazards that exist in the County. We believe that public concern for potential flood hazards will be strengthened as a result of having documented flood histories available.

Sincerely,

Clark County Conservation District

Karl F. Weikel, Chairman

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1906	March 24	3
	March 31	4
	August 25	5
1907	March 2	5
	March 23	6
1908	August 15	6
1909	August 21	6
1910	January 8	6
	January 15	8
1911	January 28	8
	March 11	9
	March 18	9
1912	August 3	9
1914	February 21	10
	February 28	10
	July 25	11
1916	January 29	11
	October 7	11
1917	May 12	11
	August 4	12
1918	March 16	12
1919	July 19	13
1920	July 24	13
1921	August 27	14
1922	January 7	14
	August 19	15
1923	July 14	16
	July 28	16
1925	August 8	20
	September 19	20
1926	July 24	21
	July 27	22
1927	February 19	22
	August 30	22
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1928	August 14	24
1929	August 5	26
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	July 12	32
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	August 21	35
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	September 7	46
	September 12	46
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	August 13	51
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	August 10	53
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	August 1	55
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	October 29	56
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	July 25	80
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1959	August 2	96
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1969	January 25	133
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1970	August 5	137
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1971	August 10	139
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INTRODUCTION

In 1974, the Nevada Division of Water Resources and several local, city and county entities in Clark County, Nevada, requested that a flood hazard analysis study be prepared covering Las Vegas Wash and tributaries in Las Vegas Valley. The study was initiated by the Soil Conservation Service in 1975, and is scheduled for completion in 1977.

SCS carries out flood hazard analyses and other related flood plain studies under a Joint Coordination Agreement with the State agency responsible for flood plain management activities. In Nevada, this agency is the Nevada Division of Water Resources. The objective of the study was to provide technical information for use in the development of local flood plain management regulations within the flood plain areas affected by Las Vegas Wash and its principal tributaries.

An important component of the study is the development of a comprehensive flood history for the study area which defines areas where floods have occurred, an approximation of magnitude, and other data relating to dates, times, and durations. During development of this data for Las Vegas Wash, it was determined that the research should be expanded to all of Clark County because the historical flood patterns have relevance to all the county communities as well as Las Vegas Valley.

The flood history research is based upon an assembly of newspaper accounts starting with 1905, which is the first year that newspaper publication appeared in southern Nevada. Microfilm newspaper files were reviewed in newspaper offices and in the Nevada State Library in Carson City. Routine climatological accounts were omitted, and only those articles describing some type of flooding or resource damage were reviewed and assembled. Where possible, the validity of many accounts was checked and cross-checked with any records, observations, or reports that may have been compiled by other Federal, State and local agencies.

This flood history begins in 1905, but it is known that some flooding observations were made back to 1896. These early accounts were described in Rainfall and Floods in Las Vegas, Nevada, author unknown, printed in 1955. The report was quoted in the publication Las Vegas Master Drainage Plan, by VTN Engineers, Las Vegas, 1963. An extensive search of libraries, Federal, State, and local agency files, and the files of VTN failed to locate this document.

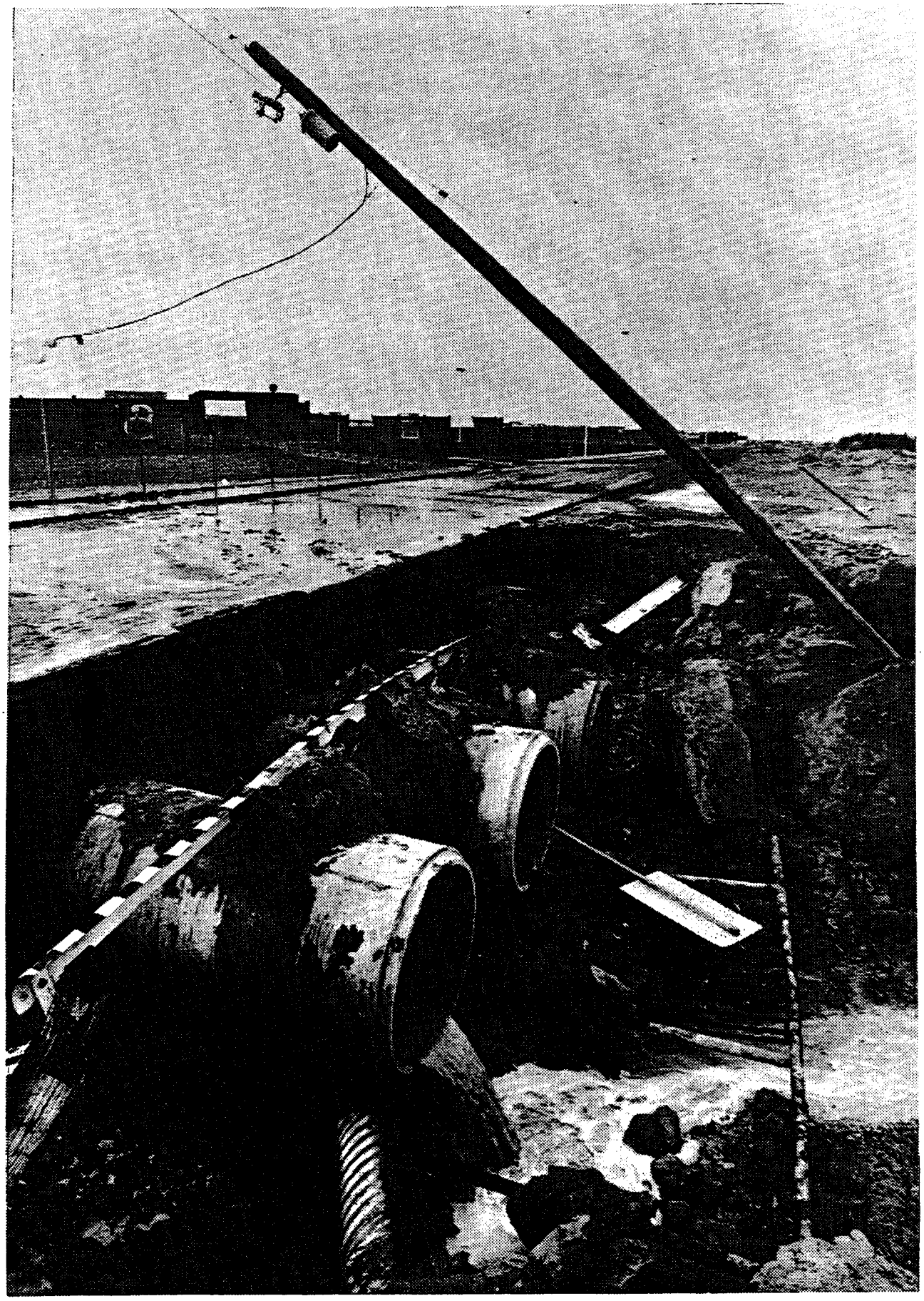
The following table presents a summary of the flood events by month and year that are described separately in the CHRONOLOGY.

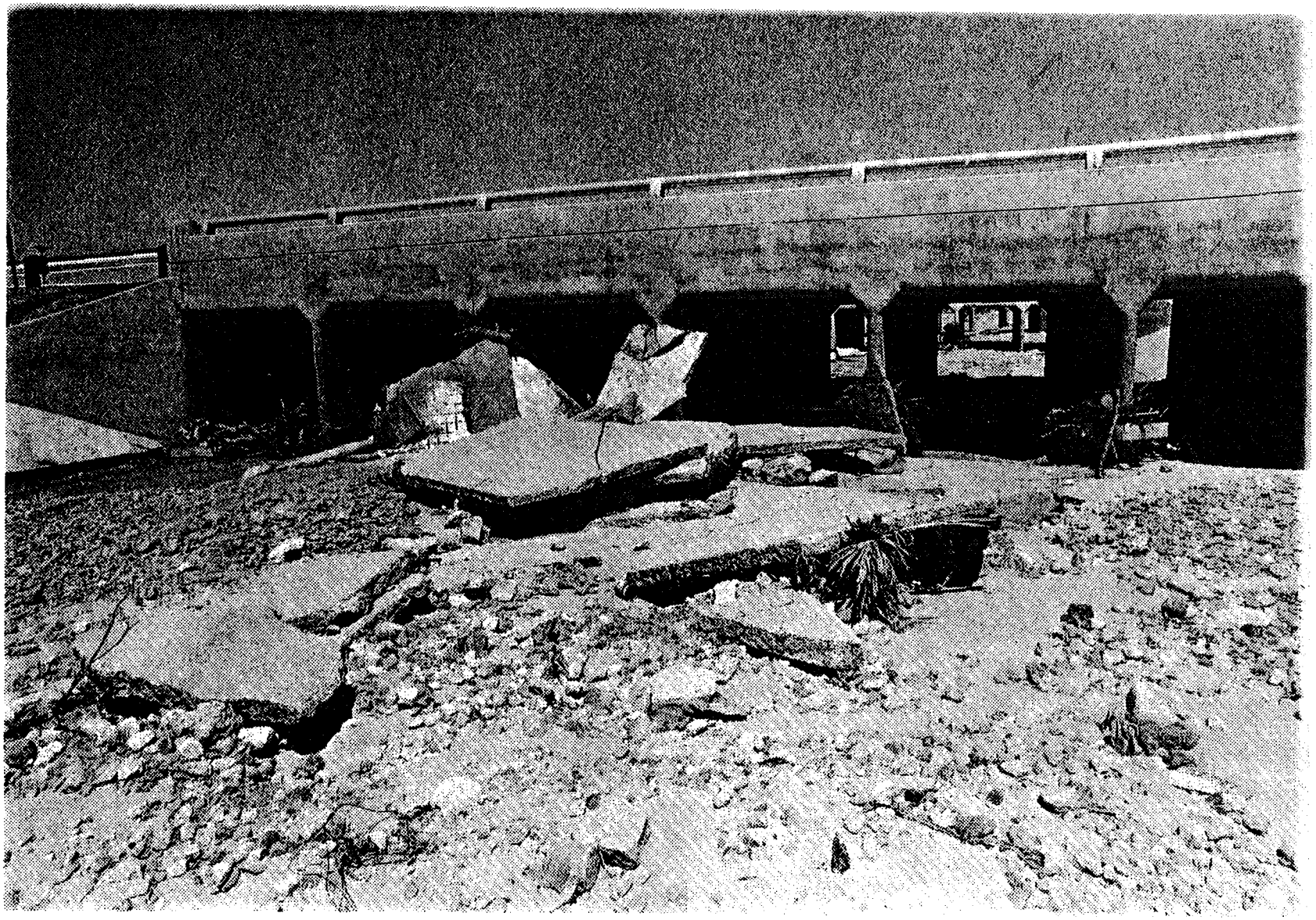
Clark County, Nevada 1905-1975[1/]

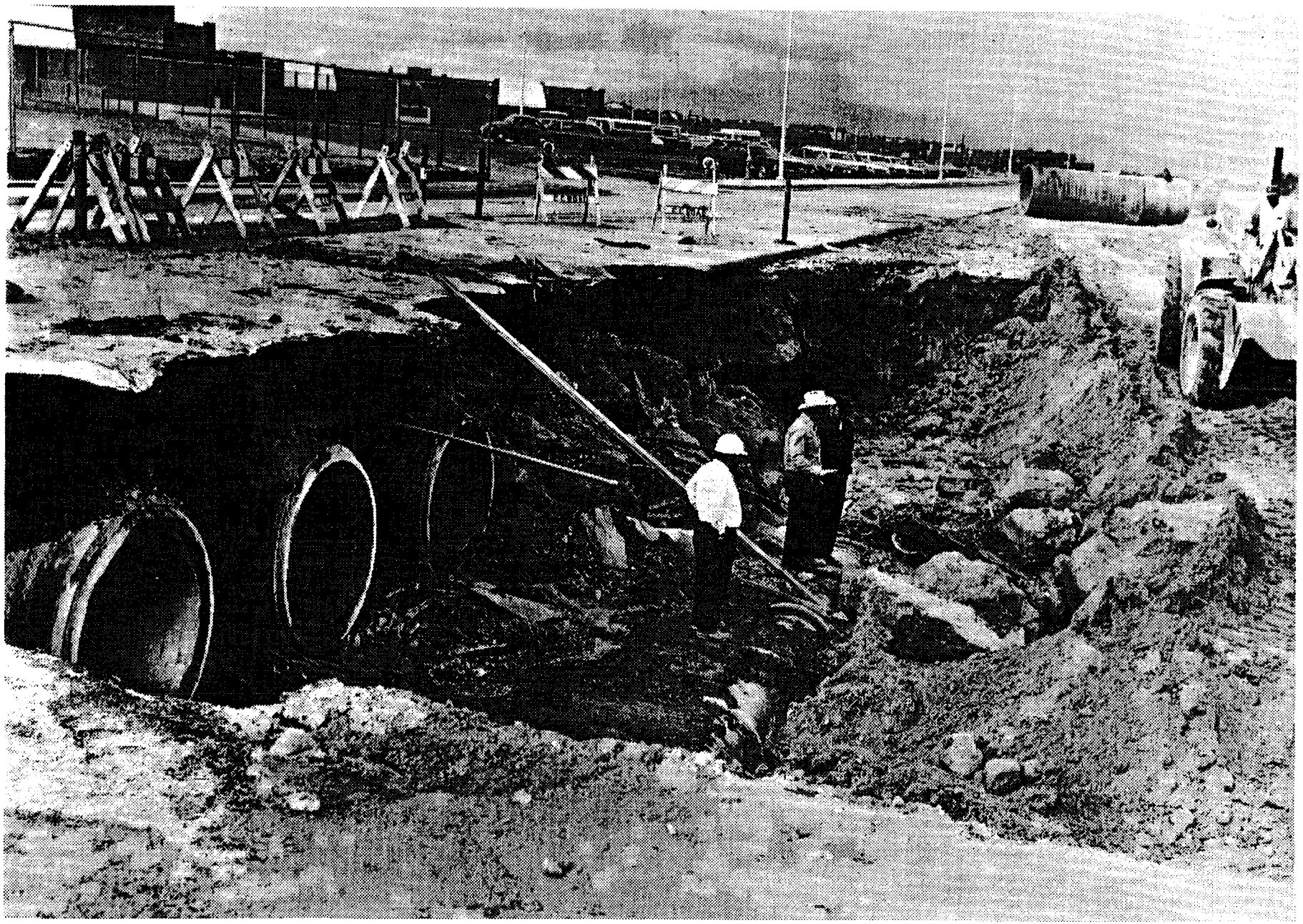
Source: Review of newspaper accounts, Nevada State Library, Carson City

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year Total
1905							1						1
1906			1					1					2
1907			2										2
1908								1					1
1909								1					1
1910	1												1
1911	1		2										3
1912								1					1
1913													0
1914		2					1						3
1915													0
1916	1									1			2
1917					1			1					2
1918			1										1
1919							1						1
1920							1						1
1921								1					1
1922	1							1					2
1923							2						2
1924													0
1925								1	1				2
1926							2						2
1927		1						1			1		3
1928								1					1
1929								2	2				4
1930								1					1
1931							1	2					3
1932		1					2	2					5
1933								2					2
1934	1							1					2
1935									1				1
1936							1	1					2
1937			1						1				2
1938			1			2		1					4
1939				1					4				5
1940		1											1
1941			1					1					2
1942								2					2
1943													0
1944													0
1945							1	1					2
1946							1			1			2
1947										1			1
1948													0
1949								1					1
1950									1				1
1951							1	2	1				4
1952			1				2		2				5
1953													0
1954			1			1	2		2				6
1955						3	2	1					6
1956							4						4
1957							2	2					4
1958						1	1		1		1		4
1959								4					4
1960							1		2		1		4
1961				1			3	4	1				9
1962			1										1
1963									1				1
1964													0
1965			1	2			1						4
1966							1		1				2
1967						1	1	3	2				7
1968							1						1
1969	1					1			1				3
1970								3					3
1971								2					2
1972								2					2
1973			1			1		1					3
1974							3		1	2		1	7
1975		1	1				1	1	1				5
Totals 1905-75	6	6	15	4	1	10	40	52	26	5	3	1	169

1/ Period 1905-1946 - Newspaper accounts for each month for each year were scanned.
Period 1947-1975 - Newspaper accounts for only the months March, April, June, July, August, September, plus one other month for each year were scanned.







CHRONOLOGY

History of Flooding, Clark County, Nevada, 1905-75

Las Vegas Age - July 15, 1905, #15, Volume I

The first storm of the summer made its appearance in the heavens Thursday afternoon. All night long thunder rolled and lightning flashed, but not until Friday morning did the clouds open and drench the parched face of the desert. These storms are common to all western desert sections and appear at unexpected intervals throughout the summer.

Las Vegas Age - March 24, 1906, #12, Volume II

Southbound trains were stalled during Wednesday and Thursday on account of a 300-foot washout near St. George, and numerous smaller washouts north and south from Caliente for 50 miles. Excess of water made the transfer of passengers and baggage across the washout impracticable.

From Modena north and east throughout Nevada and Utah, the entire country, including railroad tracks, is under snow. Many trains are snowbound in Northern Nevada and Utah.

Telegraph wires are down and service by way of Las Vegas has been interrupted.

At Salt Lake, Tuesday, the storm assumed the proportions of a cyclone. Buildings were demolished, wires displaced and traffic suspended.

To the South, in Southern California and vicinity, heavy rainstorms have been in progress, numerous small washouts have

occurred, and the soft earth allows the wind to topple over the telegraph poles.

Wednesday, washouts occurred in the Cajon Pass and the Salt Lake's Los Angeles Limited was sent east by way of San Francisco.

At Las Vegas the bulk of the storm was wind.

Las Vegas Age - March 31, 1906, #13, Volume II

From Hoya, 20 miles above Moapa, to Minta - a distance of 70 miles - the tracks of the Salt Lake Railroad suffered serious damage from the storms of the early week. The floods started their work of havoc Saturday night and continued until Tuesday. Bridges, fills, and long sections of track and grade were swept away. The exact mileage of missing track has not been ascertained, but it is considerable.

Construction trains and crews were pulled off the Las Veg and Tonopah Monday and rushed forward to the scene of disaster with carloads of ties and other material. More than 350 men have been sent out from Las Vegas, and from Salt Lake many mor have been sent to commence repairs at the other end of the was outs.

The most sanguine of the railroad employees here say it will be ten days more before the line is open to slow trains. From other and reliable sources comes the information that 20 and even 30 days may transpire before traffic can be resumed. The limited trains have been entirely suspended, while the loc come north as far as Las Vegas and then return south.

The most serious washouts are in the Meadow Valley Wash, between Moapa and Caliente, where the stream parallels the tracks through a narrow defile.

It is reported that the car of Superintendent Van Hausen, who went forward to investigate, was lost in the flood, and he was compelled to make his way on foot several miles to Caliente.

The storm was unusually severe, and the heavy rains were augmented by the melting snows in the mountains.

A provision and material train carried additional workmen to the front each day.

Las Vegas Age - August 25, 1906, #4, Volume II

Very heavy rainstorms during last Friday (17th), Saturday (18th) and Sunday (19th). The heaviest downpour was during Saturday night and Sunday, when upwards of an inch fell. The Salt Lake track (of the LV&T Railroad) to the north between Cana and Kyle was badly washed and traffic between Las Vegas and Caliente was suspended from Monday morning till Thursday. The grade of the LV&T between Las Vegas and Rose Well was badly washed at several points. Residents of the old town report that during Saturday night, the water rushed through the streets in torrents. This was a part of the flood from the west that washed the LV&T tracks.

Las Vegas Age - March 2, 1907, #9, Volume III

The Salt Lake Railroad has been out of commission for a week, caused by a big washout above Moapa, in Meadow Valley

Wash. Again the river has claimed its own and ousted the railroad from its bed. The story will be repeated as long as the Salt Lake runs through the river channel. Temporary repairs will permit trains to pass through Monday or Tuesday.

Las Vegas Age - March 23, 1907, #12, Volume III

Rain and melting snow in Meadow Valley Canyon washed out sections of the Salt Lake Railroad in that area. It was assumed that trains would not be running on it before April 15th.

Las Vegas Age - August 15, 1908, #33, Volume IV

A serious washout occurred Sunday (August 9, 1908) on the Las Vegas and Tonopah Railroad about 10 miles west of Indian Springs. Traffic on the LV&T was interrupted for nearly 48 hours. About one mile of the roadway was washed entirely away by a rush of water which came from a cloudburst in the mountain near by. No accidents to trains occurred.

Las Vegas Age - August 21, 1909, #34, Volume V

Tuesday evening (August 17) the country to the northwest of Vegas was visited by a heavy downpour of rain. The greatest damage occurred about 14 miles from Vegas on the LV&T railroad, about 30 feet of track being undermined. The main line escaped with a slight washout near Stewart siding, 5 miles north of City.

Las Vegas Age - January 8, 1910, #2, Volume VI

Heavy flood damage to the Meadow Valley Wash area was inflicted by torrential rains and melting snow during the first week of 1910. The narrow valley was unable to carry the flood

water in the usual channels, and ranches, houses, barns, and in some cases, whole ranches were overwhelmed. The track of the Salt Lake railroad on which was spent about one million dollars in building substantial bridges and putting in expensive rip-rap work after the washouts of three years ago, was practically a wreck for a distance of nearly one hundred miles. Thousands of railroad ties, great bridge timbers, portions of houses, and wreckage of every conceivable kind was carried for many miles by the flood. Trains were engulfed and a flat car still attached to the trucks was seen at a distance of over ten miles from the railroad near Logan. Fifteen miles west of Caliente, an entire train (carrying merchandise), engine and all, was overwhelmed and washed away with the exception of the caboose. The crew escaped by taking to the hills.

In the Muddy Valley, the flood was the greatest known in recent years, but aside from the loss of fences and a portion of the growing crops, it was thought that the loss was not great. Near Logan, the river ran a turbulent stream nearly a mile and a half in width. At Calappa about 60 hogs were drowned. The State Experimental Farm suffered the loss of fences and crops, being in places, under five feet of water. The damage in the lower portion of the valley was less severe than about Logan, as the valley widens considerably as it approaches the Virgin. Railroads were practically obliterated down through the valley. The house of John Averett near Logan, which had never before

been reached by the floods, was surrounded by water 18 inches deep. Also, the Huntsman Ranch above Moapa was said to be badly damaged. S. H. Wells, manager of the Moapa Improvement Company's ranch near Logan reports the loss of fences and sixty acres of growing grain. Fifty acres of asparagus were flooded and covered by silt.

Las Vegas Age - January 15, 1910, #3, Volume VI

On January 3, a flood hit the Virgin River area. The home of H. P. Iverson, 15 miles up the river from Bunkerville, had been washed away; also, his new wagon, granary with a hundred bushels of wheat, hay stacks and corral. The hay stacks and corral of Samuel Reber, Sr., were also washed away, as well as Joseph Metzer's land. The dam and head works of the ditch and some farms at Mesquite had been swept down the river. In Bunkerville, the dam and a number of miles of the ditch had been washed away as well as some farming land. Some places where the water ditch was located, the banks are from 10 to 20 feet high. No lives were reported lost.

Las Vegas Age - January 28, 1911, #5, Volume VII

The temporary line of the Salt Lake railroad through the Meadow Valley Wash was considerably damaged by floods following the severe rains Tuesday (January 24) and Wednesday (January 25). The damage was not severe in any one place, but the line suffered washouts in numerous places on the temporary work put in after the flood of a year ago. In some places, the track is side-swiped for a considerable distance, this damage being easily

repaired. The track in some places is undermined for a few feet only, and in other places, several hundred feet in length are washed out.

Las Vegas Age - Saturday, March 11, 1911, #11, Volume VII

It is to be regretted that owing to the recent washout, the trip to Vegas by the Salt Lake Railroad's agricultural train had to be abandoned.

Las Vegas Age - March 18, 1911, #12, Volume VII

Snowstorms, rainstorms and washouts have played havoc with the railroads in Nevada and California the past week. The road between Las Vegas and Salt Lake through the Meadow Valley Wash is again out of commission and rumor has it that the old road will be abandoned and work on the high line rushed to completion.

An examination of the damage caused by last week's flood showed that from Caliente to Boyd, a distance of 14 miles, it will be fully as easy to complete the new high line and connect it with the old track as it would be to make temporary repairs on the old line.

On March 8, overland train number one bound for Los Angeles, was caught at Caliente by a downpour, and could not proceed through the Meadow Valley Wash.

Las Vegas Age - August 3, 1912, #31, Volume VIII

Friday (August 2) at four o'clock an engine and four cars of the LV&T Railroad ran into a landslide at Rose Well, a short distance below Bading. The landslide was caused by one of three big washouts that tore out a considerable portion of the track

between Bading and Rose Well. The washouts are believed to have occurred during the rains of Friday morning, which were particularly heavy in the affected district. All persons on the train escaped injury except C. E. M. Beall, the fireman, who was caught under the engine, and badly bruised and scalded. These injuries were pronounced not fatal at a hospital in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Age - February 21, 1914, #8, Volume X

The Salt Lake railroad was practically out of commission as the result of the storms. Afton Canyon, Cajon Pass, Meadow Valley Wash, besides numerous localities in southern California were badly damaged, and it was several days before trains were again running on schedule.

Las Vegas Age - February 28, 1914, #9, Volume X

A flood through the Meadow Valley Wash and Moapa Valley began to assume serious proportions Saturday morning (February 21) and was at its highest point Sunday morning (February 22). The largest damage was done at Logan. The State Experiment Farm lost its fences as in the former big flood (1910) and a considerable amount of its area was covered with silt and sand, damaging growing crops and orchards. The Moapa Improvement Company's property was considerably damaged in the same manner, the levee which was constructed at a cost of $3,000, breaking and covering the asparagus and grain fields with silt. Much loose soil was washed from the fields which had been prepared for planting of cantaloupe. The Moapa Valley branch railroad

suffered very little, one fill having been washed out for a width of about 10 feet and 3 or 4 feet deep.

Las Vegas Age - July 25, 1914, #30, Volume X

Tuesday (July 21), shortly before noon, a cloudburst struck the mountains a few miles south of Owens siding on the Las Vegas and Tonopah Railroad. The track was damaged from sidewashes for a considerable distance between mile 27 and mile 32, and in some places the roadbed was entirely gone. The same storm caused a washout on the B&G, the operation of which was just taken over by the LV&T Railroad, doing some damage near Springdale.

Las Vegas Age - January 29, 1916, #5, Volume XII

On Wednesday, January 19, 1916, a large flood swept the town of Logan, but did no great amount of damage. Moapa Improvement Company lost a few acres of grain, as did Mr. Jorgensen. H. B. Mills was the heaviest loser with 20 acres of melon land covered with sand.

Las Vegas Age - October 7, 1916, #41, Volume XII

Considerable damage had been inflicted on property near the Rio Virgin. The river had risen to the highest point remembered to that date. It was reported that there was a sixty foot gap in the approach to the bridge near St. Thomas, but the steel span was still intact.

Las Vegas Age - May 12, 1917, #19, Volume XIII

The southern portion of the county suffered considerable of a deluge in the storm of Tuesday (May 8), although in the Vegas

Valley, the rainfall was comparatively slight. In Eldorado Canyon, the fall was heavy doing some small damage to the roads. About Goodsprings the rain was accompanied with sleet and hail and assumed almost the proportions of a cloudburst. Some damage was done in the town where good sized rivers filled the gullies, drowned chickens and cut through gardens. The road between Goodsprings and Jean was damaged in some places where it crossed water courses. On the road from Jean to Las Vegas, there was some damage, there being numerous small washouts on the old shoo-fly railroad grade north of Erie.

Las Vegas Age - August 4, 1917, #31, Volume XIII

A storm during the latter part of the week ending August 4, damaged a large acreage of land on the Moapa Indian Reservation. The flood came down the Moapa River in great volume, covering alfalfa fields with silt and ruining a large portion of the cantaloupes and other crops.

Las Vegas Age - March 16, 1918, #11, Volume XIV

Owing to the heavy rains in the mountains on the 8th of March, when the down-pour reached almost the proportions of a cloudburst for the period of eight hours, the valley of the Rio Virgin experienced a severe flood. On the 9th and 10th of March the flood was at its peak. At Bunkerville and Mesquite, damage to the amount of $1,200 or $1,500 was done to ranches, considerable land being washed away by the torrent. In Bunkerville, Newell Leavitt, Henry Leavitt and W. C. Bowman were among the

sufferers. At Mesquite, Will Hughes and Joe Leavitt lost some land. There was some damage in places, to roads; the running water removing the earth and leaving the rocks to project.

Las Vegas Age - Saturday, July 19, 1919, #29, Volume XV

Jupiter Pluvious paid Clark County a brief visit on Thursday evening.

Thursday evening's storm was a howling success. It opened shortly after nine o'clock with a rush of noisy wind which seemed to be attempting to tear the world up by the roots. How the rain did come down - a perfect torrent - in drops as big as a Satsuma Plum.

After fifteen or twenty minutes of the real stuff, things calmed down a bit, but until the small hours of the morning, the cool, refreshing downpour continued in moderation. The total rainfall for the storm amounted to 1.10 inches.

So far as we have been able to learn, no damage was done to property. The Salt Lake Route suffered slight delay by reason of unimportant washouts, and in some places the county roads are damaged by the running waters.

Las Vegas Age - July 24, 1920, #30, Volume XVI

Friday afternoon (July 23) a heavy rain storm having the characteristics of a cloudburst, fell in the Moapa Valley area. Many acres of cantaloupes were swept away and the boarding house at the Gypsum works was destroyed.

Las Vegas Age - August 27, 1921, #35, Volume XVII

Torrential rains fell on various sections of southern Nevada during the week of August 21 through August 26. Even though Las Vegas escaped the downpour, the Moapa and Virgin Valleys received their share. Damage in Moapa Valley was confined mostly to roads. The Rio Virgin Valley was swept by a large volume of water which collected, from the great drainage basin of the river, the water being higher than for several years at Bunkerville. R. E. Savage, resident engineer of the State Highway Department was in Bunkerville Wednesday (August 24). He reported that the river had diverted its channel at the site of the bridge near Bunkerville, so that there was no water passing under the steel spans recently erected, at great cost by the highway commission and Clark County. All the water was flowing under the trestle-work approach to the bridge. Mr. Savage also reported that the heaviest rain on record fell at Bunkerville and Mesquite. The bridge across the Virgin near St. Thomas was impassable for the time being by the water cutting away the approach on the east side, but the steel spans were undamaged.

Las Vegas Age - January 7, 1922, #1, Volume XVIII

On Monday (January 2), a large amount of water came down the Meadow Valley Wash. This water reinforced by flood waters from Clover Canyon, near the Kiernan ranch, caused considerable damage to Union Pacific railroad tracks near Caliente. The track

was washed out in a considerable number of places, both above and below Caliente, and several trains were caught between the washouts. The most serious damage extends from a point one mile east of Caliente to a point 12 miles east, there being a number of small washouts and two very bad ones caused by a change in the channel of the river. Below Caliente, there are three washouts near Carp, one at Kiernan's ranch where the Clover Canyon comes in and one place about one mile west of Boyd.

Las Vegas Age - August 19, 1922, #33, Volume XVIII

The rains of Wednesday (August 16) and Thursday (August 17) caused considerable damage to portions of the Moapa Valley. The rush of water from Arrow Canyon into the upper end of the Valley came in great volume, augmented by the flow from side canyons emptying into the valley. Roads were almost obliterated in many places. Bridges were swept away and much damage to crops and buildings was wrought. In Overton, the water swept through the houses of W. L. Jones and J. I. Earl, being over the top of the wheels of a Ford car in the yard of the latter. It also flowed into the drug store and into many other houses. An adobe house on the W. L. Jones place in which was stored farm machinery, was crumbled and swept away. Considerable damage was also reported at the Wiser ranch at which place a concrete dam was broken away. At Kaolin, there was also considerable damage done, but St. Thomas escaped.

Las Vegas Age - July 14, 1923, #28, Volume XIX

The heated term was broken during the past week by some ideal storms and a small rainfall over the country in general on Wednesday. The rain, although less than .1 of an inch, was of considerable benefit in cooling and purifying the air. The dust was partially laid and some benefits to the roads resulted.

Sunday afternoon a cloudburst in the mountains southwest of Las Vegas sent a large volume of water through several of the ranches and did considerable damage to property in its path. The road between Las Vegas and Searchlight was made impassable and travel was suspended until Monday.

Las Vegas Age - July 28, 1923, #30, Volume XIX

A torrential downpour in Las Vegas accompanied by hail, wind, and lightning, caused considerable damage to property Monday afternoon (July 23) between four and five o'clock. During the storm, which lasted about one hour, the rain gauge of the local weather station registered 1.98 inches of precipitation, but it was estimated that the rainfall was 50 percent greater than the gauge registered due to high winds. The storm was quite local and centered in Las Vegas. Six or seven miles out on the St. Thomas road, there was practically no rain. East and south of the city, the storm was confined to the radius of a few miles. West, the downpour did not extend beyond Tule. The storm first came out of the south, then veered to the west and north. Some hail came with the final burst of the storm,

but the hail stones were not large enough to break windows except in a few cases. Damage to property was extensive as described in the following paragraphs.

The Clark Building was struck by lightning, with damage estimated at about five hundred dollars.

A small cottage on Eighth Street was rolled over twice and then shattered by the wind.

At Ladd's Resort, a bath house was blown into the pool and wind blowing through an open door on the garage caused it to collapse the garage with damage to the Resort estimated at several thousand dollars.

The west wall of the Oasis Confectionary fell outward and damage was estimated at between four hundred and five hundred dollars.

The east wall of the building owned by Will Beckley and occupied by Ball Brothers Grocery collapsed with the side wall falling outward and the roof portion being unsupported, crashed down upon stock and fixtures. Loss was estimated at between $1,500 and $2,000 in addition to the cost of salvaging and moving merchandise, and the loss of business.

The Union Pacific Railroad suffered the heaviest monetary loss. The roof of the great shop building constructed of two inch planks was shattered by lightning in two places and great holes remain where the shattered timbers were stripped off. Fragments off the roof were strewn over a large area of the rail-

way yards. The west end wall of the shop building was demolished. The east wall of the round house was blown in, resulting in considerable damage. The power house was flooded and the engine pits filled with water. The big poles carrying the transformers and power lines were thrown down. There was some damage to the shop machinery, but this was small. The loss to the railroad probably will not exceed fifteen or twenty thousand dollars.

The Ice Plant of the P. F. E. suffered small damage to their platforms and power lines, amounting to probably one hundred dollars.

The Standard Oil Plant was slightly damaged, estimated at fifty dollars.

Some damage was suffered at the Griffith Building, where the Post Office is located. The large plate glass window in the front of the Post Office was blown in. A skylight in the roof was broken allowing a deluge of water to drench the upper floor and run down into the Post Office and the stores below.

The concrete coping on the front of the library building fell outward and most of the plastering of the library room fell from the ceiling.

I. C. Johnson's warehouse had the end blown in.

The warehouse of the Edward W. Clark Forwarding Company was wracked until it had a leaning toward one side and end, but it did not collapse.

The sliding door at the west entrance to the express office

was torn from its fastenings.

The Troy Steam Laundry suffered broken glass and a thorough drenching.

Several hundred feet of the high board fence on the Fifth Street side of the Fairgrounds was blown down.

The Las Vegas Brick and Plaster Company suffered some damage due to water flowing through their yard and undermining piles of brick.

Many cellars in the business portion of Las Vegas were flooded doing some damage to stored goods. Cellars under many residences also were partially filled with water.

Although many of the streets were running rivers of water, in some cases over the sidewalks, the City suffered but slight damage to streets.

In several portions of town, shade trees were uprooted and beaten down. Some of the fine umbrella trees were split and broken. Streets and yards were strewn with broken branches.

The Arrowhead Trail Highway was slightly damaged in some places, but travel was delayed only a few hours.

The offices of A. A. Hinman, T. M. Carroll and the Las Vegas Age, in the Overland Building, were drenched with water. The Age suffered but slight damage. The contents of Mr. Carroll's office were well soaked by water which poured through the ceiling, but his loss was small. Mr. Hinman suffered damage to the amount of approximately $500 from the drenching of his law library,

filing cases and desks.

The water was forced through practically every roof in Las Vegas to a greater or lesser degree, leaving many discolored ceilings, but not resulting in any substantial damage.

Las Vegas Age, August 8, 1925, #32, Volume XXL

During the week of August 2 through 7, heavy downpours occurred in the Las Vegas vicinity. Las Vegas escaped without damage. The Vegas-Searchlight road was badly washed this side of the first summit, about 20 miles from Las Vegas. The Charleston Park road also suffered severely. Near the McGriff Ranch, eight miles south of Vegas, the downpour was unusually heavy.

Las Vegas Age, September 19, 1925, #38, Volume XXI

Torrential storms which reached cloudburst proportions in some sections Friday morning (September 18), wrought havoc to the Union Pacific Railroad lines in the Meadow Valley Wash, damaged the Arrowhead Trail Highway to a slight extent and caused more or less damage to ranches and crops over a territory of considerable extent.

It appears that the first destruction came from the storm which centered in the Pahranagat Range, between Meadow Valley Wash and Pahranagat Valley. The water from this storm roared down the mountain canyons, tearing out sections of the railroad where they poured into Meadow Valley Wash; in other places covering the tracks for hundreds of feet with a mass of sand and rocks from four to ten feet in depth. Following the first cloud-

burst with its destruction on the main line, another deluge occurred in the country between Caliente and Pioche. It was reported that some three miles of the Pioche Branch of the Union Pacific were destroyed. This would indicate that the Caliente-Pioche Highway had also suffered severely. The Arrowhead Highway escaped, fortunately, with but light damage. Small cuts were made in several places, which were easily repaired. The Moapa Valley suffered considerable damage. The flood failed to follow the drainage canal and the water was running through the farms, bringing considerable loss. The Moapa Valley Branch of the Union Pacific lost two bridges, the flood taking out the piling and running over the top of the structures. The bridge near the White Star Plant was seriously damaged. The Moapa Valley county road was considerably damaged. Two bridges were out and the ford across the river above Logandale was washed five feet deeper than it was. The cost to the county to put the road in repair will be approximately $1,000. The diversion dam used by the Muddy Valley Irrigation Company had been destroyed and water will not be available for the lower valley until this is repaired. The bridge on the Arrowhead Trail Highway near Glendale suffered no damage.

Las Vegas Age - Saturday, July 24, 1926, #30, Volume XXII

Al E. Buys of Goodsprings was caught in the rush of water from a cloudburst on his way to Las Vegas, Sunday afternoon. His car was swept from the road just far enough so that he was tied up until nine o'clock that evening before securing help

to get it back on the roadway. Beyond a good wetting, and an annoying delay, Mr. Buys did not suffer any hardships. The car, fortunately, was not injured.

The mishap occurred at a point where the road crosses a wash a short distance beyond the McGriff Ranch. The cloudburst occurred in the country west of Arden, probably in the vicinity of the Cottonwood Ranch.

July 27, 1926, (From USACE Muddy River Report)

A flood on July 27 caused considerable damage on the upper Muddy River. No record of magnitude of flood or extent of damage could be found in the newspaper files.

Las Vegas Review, February 19, 1927, #14, Volume XIX

Although the highways on three sides of Las Vegas were blocked by deep waters on Wednesday night (February 16), the Searchlight road was the only one on which the blockade lasted over two hours. Several cars were tied up behind a nine-mile washout area on the Searchlight road. Two feet of water on the Arrowhead Trail south of the City held up traffic for two hours.

Las Vegas Review, August 30, 1927, #68, Volume XIX

Highways leading out of Las Vegas in four directions, were the main sufferers from a series of cloudbursts which deluged all of southern Nevada and southern Utah, and portions of southern California, during the past four days (August 25-29). Damage to property had been comparatively small, this together with the fact that no lives were lost, being due mostly to the comparative

sparseness of the population, according to reports from the inundated areas. Reports on highway conditions compiled at noon on August 30, showed as follows: Arrowhead Trail, North - bad washout near St. George; cars held up over twenty-four hours, now making their way over temporary road. Arrowhead Trail, South highway washed out at Baker, traffic held up for several hours. Tonopah Highway - badly washed from Lorenzi Resort for eighteen miles toward Tonopah. Unconfirmed reports indicate several other severe washouts toward Tonopah, although still possible to pass. Searchlight Road - eighty percent washed out, according to County Road Supervisor King. Dry Lake contained more water than at any time in recent years, the road is passable, but nearly a day is necessary to drive from Needles.

The Tonopah and Searchlight roads alone, will cost the State and County several thousand dollars to repair.

Moapa Valley was recovering from a four-day deluge (August 25-29), on Tuesday August 30, which temporarily isolated the town from any automobile connection with the outside world. The heavy rains and accompanying cloudbursts, badly damaged the Home Ranch Indian Reservation and upper Livingston Ranch, which were under between six and eight inches of water for thirty-two hours. The Livingston bridge on the old county road from Glendale to Moapa was washed out, the diversion dam of the Muddy River Irrigation Company was swept away in the rushing water, while the Meadow Valley ford between Glendale and Moapa and the Muddy River

ford between Glendale and Overton were also gone. Several county road crews had been put to work under the direction of County Supervisor King, repairing the damage, which ran into the thousands of dollars.

Las Vegas Review, November 11, 1927, #89, Volume XIX

Floods in Moapa Valley did considerable damage by taking out the Meadow Valley crossing and about twenty feet of road in "The Narrows."

Las Vegas Age, Tuesday, August 14, 1928, #77, Volume XX

Washouts caused by yesterday's rain occurred late yesterday afternoon about seven miles east of the City, and served to tie up traffic temporarily.

The damage was discovered by a patrolman put on by the maintenance foreman to watch the culverts, and consists of one washout 12 feet wide near one culvert, and the undermining of the road at another culvert. In the latter case, the road looks perfectly good, but the grade has been washed out underneath the gravel, leaving about six inches of gravel suspended in air, without any foundation.

The maintenance crew was put to work at once making temporary repairs. It was found necessary to close the main highway from the Oasis Service Station to a point about eight miles east of Las Vegas. Fortunately, the old road furnished a very fair detour, and temporary repairs were completed by ten o'clock this morning.

The new Boulder City highway suffered the greatest damage in southern Nevada, a wall of water having poured over it for some time at a point about four miles from Las Vegas, endangering the lives of a party of four who attempted to drive thru on Saturday evening.

The underpass between Las Vegas and Dry Lake on the Salt Lake highway also suffered severe washout and inundation, the highway department being compelled to assist passing automobiles by means of trucks for some time.

The highway three miles out toward the airport, where Vegas Wash crosses, was badly washed, but passable; the five-mile stretch beyond that point being washed completely in places; the shoulders being partially or completely washed away in places also.

The road from Charleston Boulevard across to the Reno Highway by way of the Filby Ranch was washed out so badly, travel was completely barred until repairs are made.

The Los Angeles Highway, near the Red Rooster, was damaged slightly by a flow of more than a foot of water which passed over it.

Last night's rain, following on the heels of the damaging rain of the night before, impeded the progress of traffic on the detour which had been put to use by the State Highway Dearment to keep travel off the damaged portion of the Boulder City Highway.

The detour had been put to use taking cars around the old highway to a point a short distance beyond the worst washout.

Las Vegas Evening Review, August 5, 1929, #165, Volume XXI

A deluge late Sunday afternoon (August 4) completely blockaded traffic on the three main highways leading out of Las Vegas, leaving only the Searchlight road unharmed. The storm started early in the afternoon, increased in volume as the hours passed, until at least two major cloudbursts, and several torrents of similar proportions left huge gaps in the highways.

A report of the situation released by C. C. Boyer, State Highway Engineer, and J. P. King, County Road Supervisor, showed the following conditions:

1. Arrowhead Trail south of Las Vegas - Badly washed from Jean to the State line, California State Highway virtually ruined from Dry Lake, near the Nevada-California state line to approximately 15 miles below Baker; cloudburst struck near Windmill, holding up traffic for several hours; highway now passable, but travel is slow. Damage estimated at approximately $50,000.
2. Las Vegas-Beatty highway virtually washed away for seven miles, near Tule, where the Charleston road leaves the highway; three bridges destroyed; grade damaged so badly that entire reconstruction will probably be necessary.
3. Arrowhead Trail north of the City - badly damaged at the first wash 4.5 miles from corner of Fremont and Main;

pavement still intact and passable; California Wash, 43 miles out, between Crystal and Glendale is bad, but passable; highway between Bunkerville and Mesquite was badly damaged also.

The big deluge hit on the north side of Charleston Mountain and raced down the draw in a virtual river, crossing the highway near Las Vegas about three feet deep, from six o'clock last evening (August 4) until long after midnight; the roar of the swirling water could be heard for a distance of a half-mile from the wash, and between 60 and 100 cars were held up back of the stream. The main damage was done by waters leaving the main channel and washing back alongside the highway, for the pavement in the wash itself was not damaged except for being left without any supporting material on either side.

The deluge followed virtually every wash from that point to Mesquite, although in only the few instances mentioned above was any great damage done.

Windmill Wash, 75 miles south, flowed some two feet deep for several hours, holding over 100 cars on either side.

Las Vegas Evening Review, August 27, 1929, #184, Volume XXI

Rain drenched the southern portion of Las Vegas, and barely sprinkled in the downtown district on Monday, August 26. Judging from the proportions of the deluge in the southern part, a cloudburst may have struck somewhere nearby. Late reports had failed to disclose any information regarding this, however.

Sunday's downpour (August 25) wrecked, for the second time in three weeks, several miles of the state highway near the

Charleston turnoff and washed out a portion of the Arrowhead Trail on the Mormon Mesa, several miles this side of Bunkerville. The Mormon Mesa washout was not serious.

Las Vegas Evening Review, September 2, 1929, #189, Volume XXI

Cloudbursts striking near Las Vegas on Sunday (September 1), turned Charleston Boulevard into a river, west of the railroad tracks, and disgorged water in great quantities into Garces and Bonneville Streets, draining into Fifth Street in wide streams.

The highway to Black Canyon was under water for several miles, but was passable at last accounts. The eight mile stretch of the Tonopah Highway near the Charleston turnoff, which has been rebuilt three times this summer, was again washed out.

All washes north and south of the City carried their usual quota of water, but the highways were not damaged.

Las Vegas Evening Review, September 3, 1929, #190, Volume XXI

The washes around Las Vegas were once again filled on Monday (September 2), by heavy downpours in this area. The second wash past the Desierto Inn, south of the City, carried three feet of water for over an hour, and some thirty-five cars were lined up on both sides awaiting the subsiding of the water. In Las Vegas itself, Charleston Boulevard poured muddy waters into the southern residential section of the City, and several homes in the newer portions of the City were shut off from the rest of the City, by the high waters. No substantial damage was reported.

Las Vegas Evening Review, August 23, 1930, #199, Volume XXII

On Wednesday (August 20), the underpass where the Arrowhead Trail crosses under the Union Pacific Railway, 29 miles north of Las Vegas, was reopened for traffic. The underpass and the section of highway in that area was damaged by a cloudburst, which occurred sometime within the previous week. The section of highway was completely destroyed, the shoulders having been washed away and the oil-bound gravel surfacing washed out.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, July 31, 1931, #183, Volume XXIII

A cloudburst struck the Bunkerville area at about 4:30 in the morning, July 30. A two-foot wall of water swept through a portion of the town, on into the Virgin River, ripping out several highway fills, and tearing away the preliminary work on the new Virgin River bridge, doing damage estimated at approximately $2,000 when the excavations for the project were filled with sand and debris. Damage to Virgin Valley ranches, highways and crops was not serious. Reports declared that while several ranches suffered temporary damage from sand being swept in, and water soaking residences and stored crops, there was no permanent damage of any serious nature.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Aug. 12, 1931, #193, Vol. XXIII

A thunderstorm hit the Las Vegas area between 8 and 9 A. M. Wednesday (August 12). A sudden downpour of rain which continued for several hours, was estimated unofficially to have precipitated two inches of water during the forenoon.

The roofless Boggs Building on Fremont, near Fourth, under construction, suffered damage to the newlaid wood floor and the new plaster, with water literally streaming down the walls to the floor. Seven men with brooms worked zealously for an hour keeping the floor clear of water. The swelling, however, is expected to make necessary the resanding and reworking of the entire floor.

Four or five signal poles and a transformer block on the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way just south of Charleston Boulevard were down discommoding a quarter of a mile of signal system.

With streets in various parts of the city running with water, service cars and wreckers were kept busy pulling cars out of the mire. The water completely covered the streets and highway in places in the south end of the city.

Shortly before six o'clock last night a cloudburst swept down out of the Calico Mountains and across the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, three miles east of Yermo, washing out about a tenth of a mile of track and necessitating the rerouting of trains over the Tonopah and Tidewater Tracks. A train due in Las Vegas early this morning arrived shortly after noon Wednesday (August 12

Travel on the highway near Yermo was held up for more than four hours last night, according to tourists because the storm had washed huge boulders onto the road. This obstruction was finally cleared and traffic was rolling unimpeded Wednesday (August 12).

Moapa reported rains in the surrounding hills, but not in the town.

The Boulder City Highway suffered some damage from the storm, the new oiled portion being washed over a great portion of its length. While there was no serious damage done to the road, highway workers were placed at one point in order to get the water off as soon as possible to prevent a complete collapse of a large section.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Feb. 15, 1932, #39, Volume XXIV

On Monday, February 8, a flood swept through a canyon at Blue Diamond in which the local school building was located. The teacher and twelve children were marooned in the school building for several hours. Water stood in the canyon for nearly two days, some six inches still surrounded the school building Wednesday morning (February 10). No serious damage was reported.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, July 11,1932, #164, Vol. XXIV

The storm struck shortly before six o'clock Sunday evening (July 10). It extended from Indian Springs on the west, to Boulder City on the east, and from Mountain Pass on the south, to past St. Thomas on the north. The road between Las Vegas and Crystal was well washed by the water, but so far as could be learned, no great damage was done.

The storm inflicted the greatest damage to property on the Boulder Dam Highway between Midway City and Sunset. Thousands of dollars in damage was done to homes and business buildings

in this area. Two persons were believed killed, Mrs. A. Grimes and another man, whose name could not be ascertained, when their car was over-turned by the rushing water.

The flood water floated a gasoline pump out of the ground. The air in the tank which was shallow-buried, furnished the floatsom factor. The entire outfit stuck up high into the air while floating on the water. The service station which was completely submerged was on the south side of the road at Whitney.

Chief of police Bodell of Boulder City reported that at one o'clock Monday morning (July 11), the water was still running five feet deep and 100 feet wide in several portions of the valley, as far as fifteen miles from the highway.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, July 12, 1932, #165, Vol. XXIV

The lower Virgin River bridge on the Arrowhead Trail was under water for several hours Monday night (July 11), but was performing its regular function by mid Tuesday morning, according to C. C. Boyer, Division of Highways Engineer. Water flowed over the bridge throughout the night, but did not damage the structure. Also, as a result of the recent storm (July 10), many farms in the Moapa Valley were under water, but damage was expected to be small when the water recedes. The level of Muddy River was up considerably above normal.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Aug. 27, 1932, #205, Vol. XXIV

The lower Virgin River bridge was washed out early Saturday morning (August 27). The bridge was continuously battered by three separate cloudbursts during the night. According to Division

of Highways Engineer C. C. Boyer, of the State Highway Department, the first cloudburst to strike, hit shortly before midnight, this was followed by one at Beaver Dam. Although these raised the water of the Virgin River well over the structure, the third which washed down from Fort Pierce in the Zion Park area spelled destruction for the structure. According to Boyer, the waters tore the bridge loose from its moorings on both sides of the river and then, with a final surge, folded it up in the middle. The bridge went out at 4:10 Saturday morning, with the flood pouring five feet over its runway, and hundreds of cars were held up on each side.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Aug. 29, 1932, #206, Vol. XXIV

A deluge on Saturday night (August 27) delt Mesquite what was called the worst flood in forty years. Many farms in the valley were covered with from one to three feet of mud, while the canal system which provides water for irrigation was badly damaged. In addition to the lower Virgin River bridge being carried away by the force of the storm, the highways on both sides of Mesquite were washed badly, and one of the smaller bridges in the Arizona strip was washed away.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Aug. 15, 1933, #193, Vol. XXV

A miniature cloudburst, centering about Las Vegas, raged for several hours Monday night, August 14, drenching the entire countryside for several miles, but missing Boulder City entirely. Preceded by a heavy wind which uprooted trees, ripped the tops off scores of others, blew away benches and awnings, and in one

instance, carried a small cabin fifty feet to a resting place against a fence, the rain put several sections of all four highways leading out of the city under water, but C. C. Boyer, Division of Highways Engineer, reported no damage had been done, except to wash the shoulders slightly in some sections. The heaviest flow of water on the highway according to Boyer was near the airport, eight miles north, where a steady stream several inches deep coursed down from the nearby hills. It spread out, however, and was not sufficiently deep to obstruct traffic. The worst damage to the highway was reported from Bunkerville, where one of the heavy fills on the newly constructed highway south was washed badly, but not sufficiently to interfere with travel over the road.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Aug. 21, 1933, #198, Vol. XXV

A heavy deluge swept the area around Midway for a distance of about a mile and a quarter, and for a time, it appeared that the water rushing down the wash would take away the road. But, according to C. C. Boyer, the main portion of the highway was not damaged to any great degree. The shoulders of the highway were badly washed, Boyer said, and traffic was delayed for about half an hour by the water running across the road. However, when the water subsided, traffic was allowed to pass. Residents around Midway reported the water to be knee-deep in places and several residences along the highway were filled with silt and debris from the water.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Jan. 3, 1934, #2, Vol. XXVI

Tuesday (January 2), between eight in the morning and noon, a small flood destroyed a short section of the flood control dam being built in Meadow Valley Wash by the CCC men from the Moapa Camp. The flood reached a maximum flow of 330 cubic feet per second, which continued for a period of six hours. By the evening of January 3, the flow had dropped to 128 cubic feet per second. The total damage to the main structure was slight, but a small temporary canal was completely washed away.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, August 21, 1934, #222, Vol. XXVI

The deluge which hit Las Vegas about nine o'clock last evening, and dropped .58 inches of rain in less than an hour, was entirely local in nature, extending scarcely two miles beyond the City in all directions.

The fury of the storm centered about the downtown business district, with Fremont Street resembling a raging torrent for nearly a half hour. Water flowed down the street for almost the entire width, and many were marooned downtown for some time as a result.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Sept. 24, 1935, #225, Vol. XXVII

A cloudburst struck near the Red Rooster night club on the Los Angeles Highway, south of Las Vegas, on Monday afternoon, September 23. This cloudburst emptied an unprecedented stream of water into the nearby washes. The first highway bridge south of the resort proved incapable of carrying the sudden load and as the torrent washed over the road, it carried with it the north

approach to the structure. Traffic was held up for two hours as a stream several feet deep tore its way across the highway. The auto camps near the Red Rooster reported considerable damage with the water running two feet deep through the cabins at one time during the storm. A miniature cloudburst hit Boulder City that evening (September 23). The road, close to the Union Pacific Depot, was badly washed along the shoulders, but the roadway itself was not damaged. No other damage was reported.

Las Vegas Age, July 31, 1936, #29, Volume XXXII

A cloudburst started at Arden at about five-thirty Thursday evening (July 30), and continued until seven that evening. There were two feet of water on the Arden Highway, and was reported to be still rising at six-thirty Thursday evening. The storm moved northeast over the Charleston foothills, and washed considerable debris on the Charleston highway about half a mile below the Harris Springs turnoff, but apparently did no other damage to the highway in the Canyon.

Las Vegas Age, Aug. 14, 1936, #31, Volume XXXII

The newly completed mill at the Chiquita Mine, eleven miles west of Goodsprings, was damaged by lightning and cloudburst on Saturday night (August 8) or early Sunday morning (August 9), during the severe storm which then raged. The electrical equipment of the mill was disabled, and a large amount of ore on the dumps was washed away. Rough estimates of the possible damage to the property range as high as $35,000 or $40,000.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, Mar. 18, 1937, #65, Vol. XXIX

Moapa Valley's new flood control system (1937) withstood the first serious threat to the farms of that area on Wednesday, March 17, turning back, without farm damage, a raging torrent that foamed down the Meadow Valley Wash and into the Muddy River. According to Warren H. Lyons, Overton Postmaster, who watched the progress of the flood, the usually docile Muddy River poured 900 second-feet of water down the valley for a considerable period of time, establishing a record of twenty times the normal flow which is between 40 and 50 second-feet. The system of check dams and flood channels up-stream, kept the waters well under control and the only damage of any kind in the valley was the widening of the channel in the vicinity of the new highway bridge across the river, which for a time seemed doomed. The waters subsided before the current had seriously damaged the foundation of the structure and it is believed that the damage was slight. The water reached a maximum depth of ten feet in the valley, Lyons estimated, explaining that the figure varied with the width of the stream. While damage in the valley was practically nil, the state highway between Glendale and Moapa didn't fare so well. According to Division Engineer August Berning, the full fury of the flood struck about a mile north of Glendale at 10:30 A. M. on Wednesday (March 17), sending a stream of water five feet deep and 100 feet wide across the highway in that area. This heavy flow continued until five o'clock that evening, cutting off all traffic and washing out a sizeable

chunk of highway, Berning said, continuing throughout the night with between one and two feet of water coursing over the roadway.
Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Sept. 24, 1937, #226, Vol. XXIX

A cloudburst on Tuesday afternoon (September 21) sent a wall of water over the road near Glendale washing a car over a culvert. The occupants, whose names were not learned, were rescued by a state highway crew, who towed their car back on the road, and as no one was injured, they continued on their way. It was reported from Glendale that the lawns of the state highway houses were covered by more than a foot of water following the storm.
Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Mar. 3, 1938, #52, Vol. XXX

Damage in the Boulder City area caused by the continued rain of the past four days, was reported as quite extensive today (March 3) with roads, streets, and business buildings suffering the most. The historic lower portal road to the Boulder Canyon Project, leading from the old Babcock-Wilcox Plant down into the Canyon, which was used extensively during the construction period, was closed by extensive washouts and slides, according to Chief Ranger William H. Trimble. Extensive damage was done to the newly completed Boulder Dam-Kingman Highway, bridges on the new highway being washed out and several sections of pavement being covered with silt and rocks brought down by the flood. Basements of several buildings in Boulder City were flooded, and streets ran with water for nearly two hours last night (March 2), beginning shortly after seven

o'clock when a cloudburst descended on the community. Bureau of Reclamation officials in Boulder City reported Wednesday morning (March 3), that rainfall for the past four days is nearly double that which fell during January, February and March of last year. Rainfall during the night of March 2 amounted to .58 inch, and rainfall during the day of March 2 amounted to .20 inch, according to government reports, and rainfall for the past four days amounted to 1.50 inches.

Las Vegas and Boulder City were marooned March third, cut off from trasnportation and practically from communication with the outside world, by damages from floods to highways, railroads, and telephone and telegraph systems in every direction. Train service was tied up completely because bridges and roadbeds had been washed out. Highway traffic was at a standstill, as flood waters had swept away bridges, caused landslides onto the roads and washed away shoulders along the pavement. Heavy rains late Thursday, March 3, continued to wash out additional stretches of the Boulder Dam-Kingman Highway, and traffic was moving slowly as National Park Service employees and CCC enrollees were working on the road repairing washouts. State highway employees were working this afternoon on a section of the Charleston Highway removing debris which fell on the highway in a landslide on the night of March second. Latest reports from Charleston Park Lodge were that the highway crew had gone through and that the road was open. Western Union wires were down east of Caliente and at Cajon Pass, cutting off telegraph

communication, both north and south. Six telephone poles of the Bell Telephone Company are down in the Yermo-Daggett area, and no telephone service has been available southward since early Wednesday morning, March second. Telephone service through to Salt Lake City was normal Thursday March third. While the storm swept neighboring communities in every direction, Las Vegas received a total of 1.51 inches of rain since Saturday night, (February 22), according to C. P. Squires, official weather reporter for Las Vegas. This is almost half as much as the total annual rainfall for the year 1937, when 3.43 inches fell during the 12-month period, Squires reports. Torrential rains descended Wednesday night about seven o'clock, and intermittent rain fell Thursday (March 3), with short periods of sunshine being suddenly ended by another shower.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, Mar. 4, 1938, #53, Volume XXX

The Wells Siding Dam, keystone of Moapa Valley's flood defense lines on the Muddy River, withstood a terrific pounding and kept the water in the channel, following the heavy rain storms experienced in this area since March 2.

The Bowman Reservoir proved equal to the task of holding back excess flood waters, despite the fact that the gates at Wells Siding jammed with driftwood and it appeared imminent that the waters would rush over the top of the dam, devastating the ranches beneath. Scores of ranches in the upper valley were under a few inches of water, but a survey of the damage Friday afternoon (March 4) indicated that it would be confined to a

loss of early spring vegetable crops, the alfalfa and grain not being harmed much. Ranches in this area include the three Whipple Ranches, Tobiasoft, Mills, Adams and Wells. Farms below Logandale in the path of the raging waters were severely cut as the channel widened, and several were inundated as the stream left its banks and spread. The Bert Mills and Lee Brothers Ranches were hardest hit. None of the ranches on the east side of the highway were harmed to any degree. Scores of families in the ranches near the river moved out furniture and personal belongings late Thursday afternoon (March 3) and sought refuge for the night at the homes of friends. The residence of Ether Swapp at Logandale was worst damaged and was saved from being swept into the river by means of stout ropes anchoring it to nearby trees. The water filled this home and was running through the windows at the height of the flood. This house was in the direct path of the flood and was tossed about considerably, but the ropes held and it was saved. Other homes endangered included those of Glenn Lee, Oliver Sprague, Winn Marshall, Stowell Whitney, Burgess and Jess Murphy. The bridge spanning the flood channel at Clarence Lewis's place was completely submerged. The waters were running over the sidewalks of the Logandale School, through the Windsor home. The three Adams homes were completely surrounded. There were six inches of water in the Matt Jorgensen home and the Farmer's Supply Store at Logandale was completely surrounded, with two feet of water flowing underneath the store. The Gould Garage

was entirely isolated and the John Whipple basement was filled with water. The highway bridge at Logandale withstood the flood, but fifty feet of the approach on the Glendale side and thirty feet on the Logandale side were washed out. Travel from Overton was being routed out by the Valley of Fire road, which is reported by highway officials as being passable, but slow. The Bowman Reserve Reservoir was filled to capacity, the waters coming within a short distance of the top of the dam. Engineers estimated that approximately 7,000 second-feet of water was coursing down the Muddy River at the height of the flood, and this had dropped to 2,000 second-feet Friday afternoon (March 4). The water was lapping at the floor of the highway bridge at Glendale at the crest, but the structure was never in any danger of being washed out.

Rain continued to fall on Boulder City March 4, making it the fourth consecutive day of rainfall in that area. Dry Lake, on the Searchlight Highway, was covered with between two and three feet of water, making travel on that route virtually impossible.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, March 7, 1938, #55, Vol. XXX

Pictures of Muddy River flood of March 3 and 4, 1938.

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Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, June 28, 1938, #149, Vol. XXX

A cloudburst struck southern Nevada Tuesday afternoon (June 28), and was concentrated in the area between Indian Springs and Mt. Charleston, pouring several feet of water over the

highway, and by 2:30 P. M., the storm had reached almost cloudburst proportions in Las Vegas as gutters were running full to the sidewalks. Raindrops falling appeared as big as cups full of water and fell so fast that they almost obliterated the view of an automobile, less than a block ahead on the Tonopah Highway, less than 10 miles from Las Vegas. It was reported at noon (June 28) that from two to three feet of water gushed over the highway 24 miles north of Las Vegas on the Tonopah Highway and the storm increased in intensity later on that afternoon. Telephone lines into Mt. Charleston and North Las Vegas from Las Vegas were down, and no reports as to the extent of the storm in the Charleston area were available, but it is believed that one of the heaviest rainfalls ever recorded was falling there Tuesday afternoon (June 28). In the direction of Boulder City, however, no rain had fallen up to 2:30 Tuesday afternoon. Las Vegas Evening Review Journal, June 29, 1938, #150, Vol. XXX

Boulder City was struck by a cloudburst Wednesday afternoon, June 29th, and by 2:30 most of the roads leading into the community were awash, as rivers ran down from the hills, carrying dirt and debris onto the highways. The storm, preceded, shortly after noon by a hailstorm, broke in all its fury about two o'clock, and in half an hour, the road leading from Las Vegas to Boulder City, in the vicinity of the TWA airport, was running about six inches deep in water for a stretch of several hundred yards. McKeeversville, the Six Companies Machine Shop

area, the Union Pacific Depot and the airport were almost lakes, as the water poured down from the western hills. A waterfall, some 25 feet high was reported in the hills west of the town, and the roar of the suddenly-made falls could be plainly heard in Boulder City, Wednesday afternoon. The road to the Dam from Boulder City, also was reported running regular rivers in the low spots and among the hills. At one of the highway cuts, about a quarter of a mile east of Railroad Pass, the water was running deep over the road, and was eating away at the pavement. Las Vegas Evening Review Journal, August 8, 1938, #183, Vol. XXX

A rain storm around Las Vegas on August 7 and 8, was centered in the Charleston Mountains. Reports from that section indicated that three roads were badly washed and that travel into the Deer Creek section was entirely cut off. According to the information from the ranger station in Kyle Canyon, the paved highway to Charleston Lodge was open and in good shape. This, however, was the only road into that area which was open for travel. The Deer Creek Road had been so badly washed in several places that travel was impossible, and several Las Vegas residents, who spent the weekend in the section, were marooned. The road leading off the main highway into the Rainbow summer home area, also has been damaged to such an extent that auto traffic had been halted. The highway leading into the Harris Springs area also had been badly washed, and the rangers warned motorists to stay off this thoroughfare. The storm broke Sunday

morning (August 7) and rain and hail fell practically until two o'clock Sunday afternoon. The storm cleared in the afternoon but began again about 10 o'clock Sunday night, and continued steadily all night and Monday morning. It was reported still raining Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock with little prospect that it would abate before evening. The rangers report that the water system in the upper camp was plugged and that the water into the ranger station was off. Las Vegas got none of the showers of Sunday, despite heavy clouds which hovered over the city all day. Monday afternoon, however, the skies opened and sent a torrential rain over the community. No damage was reported.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Apr. 4, 1939, #80, Vol. XXXI

A heavy rain fell in Las Vegas and the surrounding area late Monday afternoon, April 3, and on some of the highways leading into town, water covered the roads to a depth of two or three inches in places, but traffic was not stalled at any point. Shoulders of the highway in the vicinity of the Las Vegas airport on Highway 91 north of Las Vegas and in the vicinity of Jean, a few miles south of Las Vegas were washed rather badly. A cloudburst descended on the road between Nipton and Searchlight, and in some places the road was badly washed, but was not made impassable. About eight inches of hail fell between Huie's Camp and the State line on the Los Angeles Highway, but melted very fast and at times two or three inches of water covered the highway. The Tonopah Highway was also covered with

water in low places, but the water ran off swiftly and did little damage. The rain in Las Vegas descended steadily for several hours. The total amount of rainfall during the storm was .36 inch.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, September 5, 1939

Heavy rains fell in southern Nevada and southern Utah last night and today washing road shoulders at many places and piling sediment on highways at many places. No serious damage resulted from the storm although heavy clouds overhung Las Vegas today, no rain fell. A heavy rain did fall in Las Vegas last night.

September 5, 1939, (From USACE Muddy River Report)

Flash floods occurred in the upper Moapa Valley in September and caused most severe damage to the Moapa Indian Reservation. Peak discharge was estimated at 1,700 cubic feet per second at Arrowhead Dam on the Muddy River. No newspaper reference to this event could be found.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, September 7, 1939

Almost one and one-half inches of rain fell in Boulder City during the three day storm earlier this week. Yesterday brought the heaviest amount of the storm as 1.05 inches were recorded up to 4:00 o'clock.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, September 12, 1939

The heavy rains of the past week or 10 days which piled on considerable damage in the Eldorado Canyon district and the

area between Boulder City and Kingman, have not troubled the highways around Las Vegas, and traffic, except for the Kingman Sector, is moving on schedule according to reports from the State Highway Department offices here.

A roaring wall of water which rushed through the California Wash in the vicinity of Glendale last night, was reported to have damaged the pavement to some extent there, but the highway crews were at work on this section and it was reported that traffic was moving over a detour.

The storm apparently centered in the Eldorado Canyon area and between Boulder City and Kingman, and reports of severe damage were brought to Las Vegas by residents and tourists who came to Las Vegas.

In Eldorado Canyon it has been raining for the past 10 days, and this morning a veritable cloudburst struck the section; reports brought here by residents of the section stated this, and homes were flooded and other damage done.

In one residence at the Diamond Gold Mining Company, it was reported that there were four inches of water and mud on the floor and other homes were similarly inundated.

The cloudburst washed a flood down the canyon this morning, and the roads in the section were reported to be badly damaged by the water. The residents said that the road is all but impassable, and the trucks hauling ore from the mines will not be able to operate until the roads are repaired.

The road between Needles and Oakman also is reported to be badly damaged, and it is not believed according to advice from that area, that it will be open for travel for a day or two at least.

A bridge on the Boulder City-Kingman Highway, 42 miles east of the Boulder Dam, was taken out by the flood, and the road probably will not be open for travel for at least a day, advices reaching the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce state.

The Las Vegas area was pelted by a heavy storm early yesterday evening, and the Charleston Boulevard, in the vicinity of the intersection with the Tonopah Highway, was badly washed again.

No other damage to arterials in this section was reported, however.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Sept. 20, 1939, #211, Vol. XXXI

A cloudburst was reported to have roared through the desert near the State line, it was reported Wednesday afternoon (September 20), and while no definite information was available on the extent of the damage done, it was believed that much trouble would be experienced with the highway leading to Los Angeles. A tourist reaching Mountain Pass about three o'clock, reported that there was about two or three feet of water on the highway near the State line, and that between 40 and 50 cars were blocked behind the flood.

Las Vegas Review Journal, September 25, 1939

A rainstorm which started early Sunday morning, September 24, continued intermittently all day yesterday and last night,

turned into a regular downpour this morning and soaked Las Vegas and brought a thudding storm which brought a plentiful supply of moisture to the section.

Reports of a cloudburst at Arden yesterday could not be verified, the Union Pacific Telegraph Office reporting that there was a heavy storm in that section, but no cloudburst.

The Union Pacific reported that the storm extended all the way from Los Angeles to Caliente, Nevada, with a heavy downpour all along the route. No damage was reported, however.

The Highway Department stated that there were no roads damaged in Division One, which includes all of the roads in Clark County, and while the rain was heavy all over, the highways withstood the moisture, and traffic was going on unhampered. During the weekend, a total of .45 inches of rain fell in Las Vegas, according to C. P. Squires, local weather observer. Yesterday the rainfall measured .10 inch, and up to 2:15 o'clock this afternoon, the rainfall had mounted to .33 inch.

The rain brought lower temperatures in Las Vegas, with a minimum of 67 degrees today, for the lowest recording since spring.

Yesterday afternoon Boulder City received several showers of rain, and the rain continued all last night and this morning.

A rock slide was reported at 4:00 o'clock this morning, one-half mile west of the old Babcock and Wilcox plant on the Boulder Dam Highway. The debris has been cleared, and traffic is proceeding as usual, it is reported.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Feb. 2, 1940, #323, Vol. XXXI

One of the heaviest rainstorms in recent years broke over

Las Vegas shortly after 5:00 o'clock last evening and before the torrent stopped, about midnight, had deposited .74 of an inch of rain.

The gutters were running almost curb deep most of the evening, and those desiring to cross the street either waded through the water, or clambered over the bumpers of parked cars to get out of the stream.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Mar. 1, 1941, #51, XXXIII

Despite heavy rain which began falling Friday night (February 28) and continued periodically during Saturday (March 1), resulting in a near-cloudburst affair about noon, damage in the Las Vegas area was reported to be nominal. Highway officials said there were no reports of any damage to the roads and that travel was going ahead without difficulty. There was some washing on the shoulders of the highway leading to Charleston, but it was not sufficient to cause any delay in traffic. The railroad reported that the rain was general all along the route from Los Angeles eastward, but that there was no damage to the roadbed in any area. A total of .51 hundredths of an inch of rain fell in Las Vegas on March 1.

August 11, 1941, (From USACE Muddy River Report)

An intense short-duration storm occurred on August 11 in the lower Muddy River Basin and resulted in largest, estimated peak flow known on California Wash and the lower Muddy River. The flood severely damaged the town of Overton by floodwaters from Overton Creek, and also damaged agricultural and railroad

property. Peak discharges were estimated at 10,000 cubic feet per second in California Wash near mouth, and at 12,000 cubic feet per second in the Muddy River channel in the lower Moapa Valley. No newspaper reference to this specific damage at Overton could be found.

Reno Evening Gazette, August 13, 1941

The rescue of a mother and her eleven year old son from an eight foot stream of water coursing down California Wash near Glendale on U. S. Highway 91, forty-five miles north of Las Vegas, was one of the highlights of a flood which swept away two railway bridges on a branch line, put one highway bridge out of commission and did an undetermined amount of damage to farms in the Moapa Valley yesterday.

The flood started at eight o'clock Monday morning, August 11, and disrupted all communication facilities almost immediately which prevented information concerning the extent of the flood from reaching here until late yesterday afternoon when the highway was reopened.

The rescue of the woman and her son became necessary when the sedan with a Minnesota license in which they were riding was swept down the wash by the torrent. Marvin Waite, highway maintenance foreman, and James Hayworth, Moapa cowboy, witnessed the accident and followed the car down the wash. When it halted on a ledge, they dove into the water to rescue the woman and child. The car was submerged at the time and it is believed that drowning was certain except for the prompt action of the

two men. The mother declined to give her name for fear of worrying her husband who she and the child were joining in Los Angeles.

The usually dry wash flowed eight feet deep and three hundred feet wide for seven hours. At one time there were seven hundred cars by actual count lined up on either side of the flood. The highway was opened at three o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The railroad bridge between Moapa and Glendale on the Moapa Valley branch was washed out and carried down stream and lodged against the new highway bridge near Glendale. It was feared for a time that this bridge would go out, but it withstood the strain. The second railroad bridge in the narrows went out later, together with several hundred feet of track. The highway bridge at Logandale became impassable when the approach was washed away.

Milk from the Moapa Valley area which supplies the Las Vegas creameries was snaked across the washout on an improvised cable-way. Communications with the valley are still down which makes it impossible to determine the amount of damage done.

The flood waters in the Moapa Valley region caused considerable damage to the highway, railway bed and water supply, forcing the Silica Sands Corporation plant, which had been shipping 100 cars a month, to shut down.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Aug. 6, 1942, #181, Vol. XXXIV

A "tent city" between Whitney and Midway on the Boulder Highway was a scene of desolation Thursday morning (August 6), after a heavy rain storm which sent a flood of water through the camp and over the shoulder of the highway. Several of the

tents were split open by the force of the water. Many of the campers, their belongings and bed clothes soaked by the water, had to hang everything on the Mesquite bushes to dry. The flood swept down from the mountains, where the storm was of cloudburst proportions.

Las Vegas Evening Review, Aug. 10, 1942, #184, Vol. XXXIV

The heaviest rain in Las Vegas since December, 1941 fell Sunday afternoon (August 9) and continued most of the night, bringing a total of 1.75 inches of rainfall, according to the report of the U. S. Weather Bureau Station at McCarran Field.

The rain was preceded by a pelting of hailstones the size of marbles, which fell with huge drops of rain for about 15 minutes. A strong wind had been blowing from the south, then shifted to the north, and almost simultaneously, the rain and hail started. In some parts of the community, the storm was of almost cloudburst proportions in the beginning, but on the south outskirts of town the first part of the storm missed altogether.

Then the temper of the storm subsided somewhat and a steady downpour began. It continued for about three hours, stopped, then resumed for most of the night.

In some parts of town, in Westside, North Las Vegas, and the eastern section, the power was off most of the afternoon and night, due to lightning.

A strong gust of wind about 5:45 P.M. last evening caused two plate glass windows in the Sears, Roebuck and Company Store at Sixth and Fremont, to crash and break.

Within 10 minutes after the storm started, great pools of water stood in low places. Trailer camps were scenes of desolation. The rain was so heavy and was driven so hard by the wind that it soaked through many canvas tents. Mud surrounded the tents and many people sank to their ankles in the soft, wet earth which quickly absorbed the moisture.

The rain started in Boulder City about five o'clock Sunday afternoon (August 9) and continued intermittently all night and today.

Justice of the Peace A. J. Nelson of Boulder City reported that he was returning from Ely and was delayed at the California Wash, 35 miles north of Las Vegas on Highway 91, from ten o'clock last night until four o'clock this morning. Water was pouring through the Wash, which drains a large area to the north, and about 50 automobiles were stalled in a lineup waiting for the water to subside so they could cross. Two trucks tipped over in the Wash, but the drivers escaped unhurt, according to reports in the office of Sheriff M. E. Ward.

The storm hit Mt. Charleston first, beginning about two o'clock Sunday afternoon (August 9), according to Ranger Jack McNutt. A little hail preceded the downpour. The rain continued throughout the night and it was still raining at ten o'clock this morning as far down the mountain as the Charleston turnoff.

A total of two and one-half inches of rain had fallen on the mountain up to ten o'clock, Ranger McNutt stated. There was a great deal of lightning with the storm, but it appeared to

be on the outer fringes, away from the forest area. If any trees were struck by lightning, the fires were extinguished by the heavy rain, the ranger said.

July 9, 1945 (From USACE Muddy River Report)

Small to medium floods occurred in July and caused considerable damage in the lower Muddy River Basin, especially to the town of Overton. The flood washed out part of the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad along lower Meadow Valley Wash, delaying trains for several hours. No newspaper reference to this event could be found.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Aug. 1, 1945, #148, Vol. XXXVII

Filling the lower end of Moapa Valley with two feet of debris and causing heavy, but unestimated crop damage, a cloudburst Tuesday night (July 31) at Overton, was reported to Chief Ranger Don W. Jolley at Boulder City, by radio from Mack Bean, foreman, for the park service at Overton. "God only knows how much rain came down, but it surely was plenty," Bean told Jolley. Bean's home at Overton was damaged and two feet of debris piled up on his floors after the cloudburst had apparently centered at the park service property. The first deluge came about eight in the evening, last night, he reported, and in addition to damaging

his home and furnishings, did considerable damage to the park service warehouse there and destroyed several hundred gallons of gasoline and oil. Roads in the area had been temporarily closed, Bean reported.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, July 25, 1946, #172, Vol. XXXVIII

A flash flood Wednesday night (July 24), which followed a cloudburst near Mesquite, cost the life of Nelson Spier, 42, of Maryland, it was disclosed by Deputy Sheriff Oscar Abbot of the Mesquite substation. The cloudburst struck at eight o'clock Wednesday night, and a wall of water eight feet high and 20 feet wide washed over the highway between Mormon Mesa and the river bridge. Other than Mr. Spier, no other injuries or damage was reported.

Reno Evening Gazette, October 29, 1946, #169

Heavy storms in southern Nevada blocked the railroad near Caliente.

Floods near Caliente, described by Union Pacific Railroad officials as the worst in 25 years, have washed out the company's tracks at two points and caused re-routing of trains over the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe tracks from Barstow, California to Denver, Colorado.

Unprecedented rainfall in the Meadow Valley Wash Basin, caused washouts at Elgin, 22 miles west of Caliente, and Eccles, five miles east of the Lincoln County railroad division point.

Reports from Caliente indicate that rain which began Sun-

day in the Caliente area was still falling today, the railroad said.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Oct. 13, 1947, #239, Vol.XXXIX

Las Vegas buckled over the weekend under the weight of the City's worst storm since July, 1945, with reports of varying damage resulting from fallen trees and the wind and a heavy rainfall of 1.04 inches.

Five miles of water flowed down Fremont Street and Charleston Boulevard. The main street damage centered in the Mayfair districts, where flooded areas included Bonneville Street, across Lewis Street, and the two-block area on Seventeenth Street.

Las Vegas bore the brunt of the storm; the northern section of the State escaped the storm entirely.

Weathermen reported the storm shed the greatest amount of rainfall in any month since July, 1945, when storm waters left many areas flooded.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, Aug. 1, 1949, #180, Vol. XLI

Three persons were injured, tens of thousands of dollars of damage was done and rain by the buckets full poured down on Las Vegas Sunday afternoon (July 31) as one of the worst wind and rain storms in history swept down on southern Nevada.

The injured suffered their hurts in a traffic accident in Las Vegas during the height of the deluge, while most of the damage was recorded in Virgin Valley, where a veritable tornado swept the section, destroying hay crops which were on the ground

ready for baling.

Floyd Wait, a resident of Las Vegas who has property in Bunkerville, reported that his family lost four tons of hay in the windstorm and that the blow was so heavy it up-rooted trees, blew off limbs and created widespread havoc.

In Mesquite, old-time residents reported that the worst wind and sandstorm in history tore through the valley, lifted scores of tons of hay off the ground and "blew it over the mountains."

The storm blew in from the southwest and for 45 minutes, the entire area was terrorized. Huge clouds of dust heralded the approach of the storm and, at its height, the dust was accompanied by the blowing hay and other flying objects.

Power in the Virgin Valley area was off for about an hour and a half, but there was little rain accompanying the storm.

There was a bad windstorm in Moapa Valley also, but, no report was available Monday morning (August 1) because telephone lines were down.

Thousands of dollars in damaged airplanes were recorded at the Las Vegas Air Force Base as winds ranging up to 125 mph swept the section. There was small damage to the buildings, but the loss here would be light, reported Colonel Mason, Commanding Officer of the air base.

The storm swirled around Las Vegas for nearly two hours, beating from all sections of the compass and pouring down approximately a half inch of rain in the time it raged. The official U. S. Weather Bureau at McCarran Field, reported .07 of an inch

of rain, but the forecaster admitted that the field was "on the edge" of the storm and that probably a great deal more moisture fell in Las Vegas. Mrs. C. P. Squires, pinch hitting for her husband who has kept weather statistics in Las Vegas for more than a quarter of a century, said that the rain gauge in the Squires yard registered .52 of an inch of rain.

The City of Las Vegas apparently was in the dead center of the storm as reports from Henderson and Boulder City indicated that the rain was not too heavy there and Mt. Charleston, usually much more moist than the lower levels, had only a light sprinkle.

The power company reported only scattered and miscellaneous transformer trouble. Lightning got on the lines and the poles in some sections and threw the circuit breakers, but there was no major trouble.

The radio stations were hard hit by the power failures. KENO and KRAM were affected with KENO reporting seven power failures during the storm. KLAS suffered considerably when the moisture seeped in to short a transmitter and the station was off the air for nearly an hour.

There was no major highway damage, although some of the roads were slightly washed.

The only injuries attributed directly to the storm were suffered by a family of three when their car collided with another at Fifth and Ogden Streets at the height of the deluge.

In some sections of the Mayfair and Huntridge Additions, rain water in the streets reached depths of more than six inches.

Numerous property owners reported minor damage to trees and shrubs although at the corner of Sixth and Carson Streets, one large tree was split in half by powerful gusts of wind.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, Sept. 8, 1950, #218, Vol. XLII

The rainstorm, which dumped .62 of an inch of moisture on the Las Vegas area in a little more than two hours yesterday, was the heaviest one-day fall that has been recorded by the local weather bureau since January 5, 1949. The rain Thursday (September 7) appeared to center in the Las Vegas Valley, with the heaviest fall in Las Vegas and Paradise Valleys. Highway officials said there was no appreciable damage done to any of the roads in the Las Vegas section, although some of the shoulders were washed badly and dirt and small rocks were strewn on the highway in several sectors outside the Las Vegas city limits. In Las Vegas, there was some extensive damage done to the interiors of several stores as the heavy rain and the torrents of water, which roared down Fremont Street and the alleys, swept under door sills and turned the interiors of the stores into miniature lakes. Most of the damage centered in the Mayfair section and on East Fremont and East Charleston. The natural drainage from the downtown area, which runs east, sent torrents of water swirling down the curbs on all of the east-west streets, and the whole mess dumped into the low-laying section. The Mayfair Homes, which were built in a manner as to "blockade" the easterly drainage of the city, were badly washed, with lawns getting most of the soaking and several homes reporting the water

seeping underneath the door sills and into living rooms. The Bond Road, in Paradise Valley, was closed to traffic and most of the unpaved roads in the valley area were impassable.

> Two photographs of this storm in Las Vegas were on the front page of this edition of the Review-Journal. One is of Fifth Street just off Fremont and the other is of Fifth and Carson Streets.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, July 20, 1951, #177, Vol. XLIII

Whitney apparently bore the brunt of a storm in the Pittman and Henderson area Thursday night, July 19. The big wash which drains the foothills of the Charleston area, ran almost full for more than three-quarters of an hour, spilling water into yards and homes on the south side of the Boulder City Highway. According to Mrs. Nellie Bunch, Postmistress at Whitney, the water was lying eight inches deep in some of the yards on the south side of the highway, and for a time the water was running over the culvert on the road, washing the highway to a mild extent. In Paradise Valley, the rainfall was so heavy that it washed the grounds of the H. F. Read Ranch and the wind damaged several of the big cottonwood trees in the yard.

There were two cloudbursts in the Charleston area, one at 9 P. M., and the other at 11 P. M.; the latter one lasted until about three o'clock. The highway below the ranger station was badly washed by the storm, but traffic was moving over it today.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, Aug. 22, 1951, #206, Vol. XLIII

A thunderstorm hit the Las Vegas area on Tuesday afternoon, August 21. Although property damage from the storm was estimated to be relatively low, greatest damage was done to local tele-

phone communications. Telephone service in North Las Vegas went out during the deluge and still had not been restored at an early hour Wednesday morning, August 22. Power outages were reported throughout the City of Las Vegas and the entire North Las Vegas area was blacked out for some two and a half hours. Hardest hit by the rain was Vegas Heights, where one resident was reported to have launched a rubber boat to paddle around the streets. The U. S. Weather Bureau of McCarran Field was unable to give an accurate estimate of the amount of rainfall because the storm bypassed the airfield and only a "sprinkle" fell there during the afternoon. Heavier downpours were reported in Henderson where .45 of an inch of rain fell. The Mt. Charleston area was thoroughly drenched during the storm and the washout of a bridge near the entrance to Lee's Canyon was reported by the Forest Service last night.

A photograph of this storm was on the front page of this edition of the Review-Journal. The picture is of Third and Fremont Streets in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, August 28, 1951, #211, Vol. XLIII

A windstorm and cloudburst hit the Vegas Heights, North Las Vegas and Las Vegas Valley areas, Monday night, August 27. Las Vegas Valley, to the east of North Las Vegas, apparently suffered the greatest damage and the whole drainage from the western slope of the area poured into the section at the height of the storm. Huge holes were dug in the oiled highway running into the area and several of the homes in the section were flooded. The rainstorm which hit the northern section of the valley about

2:30, Monday afternoon, piled up water several inches deep in homes in Vegas Heights and along East College Street. Cars were stalled on the roads in the section as water on the highways and roads rose to axle depth. At the Nellis Air Force Base, a miniature hurricane developed which blew the tar paper off the roof of the gymnasium, buckled a large steel storage tank under construction, and dumped huge amounts of water on the runways and adjacent areas at the Base. The rain also washed out about 400 feet of railroad track on a spur leading from the main Union Pacific line to the Base. In Las Vegas proper, the storm did not hit until sometime later, although there were sprinkles at about the same time as the North Vegas and Air Base disturbance. The storm struck Las Vegas shortly after 4:00 P.M. and dumped a plentiful supply of water on the section, although there were few reports of any damage. Gutters were running full during the height of the storm and there was some washing reported in the Mayfair area into which all of the water from downtown Las Vegas drains. Both Boulder City and Henderson reported heavy downpours, but no extensive damage was reported.

Two photographs of the storm were on the front page of this edition of the Review-Journal. One is of a culvert on the Nellis Air Base Road, and the other is of an underpass in Vegas Heights.

September 28, 1951, (From "Rainfall and Floods, Las Vegas, NV")

Although on the fringe of the cloudburst season, this storm appears to have been uniform and steady in nature without any period of high intensity. Gutters flowed full and overfull of water and a few curbs were undermined in new areas.

Otherwise, little damage recorded. Precipitation measured 0.98 inches. No newspaper reference on this could be found.

Las Vegas Morning Review Journal, Sept. 29, 1951, #237, Volume XLIII

Slippery roads during yesterday's storm sent a California man to the hospital after the truck he was driving overturned on the Boulder Highway, one mile west of Pittman, sheriff's officers reported.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, Mar. 9, 1952, #59, Vol. XLIV

A total of .80 of an inch of rain fell between Friday (March 7) and four o'clock Saturday morning (March 8), making it one of the heaviest rainfalls in the Las Vegas area in recent years. It was indicated that better than an inch will have fallen by the next measuring period late Saturday.

The heavy rain was mixed with some heavy, wet, snow flurries at the airport Saturday morning, but the snow was so wet it hardly hit the ground before it turned to water.

In Henderson, a total of .30 of an inch of rain had fallen up to ten o'clock Saturday morning (March 8). Fourteen hundredths of an inch fell up to midnight Friday and .16 from then until ten o'clock Saturday.

The Henderson residents were having leaky roof troubles. There were about 250 homes in the Henderson section which have not been treated with new roofs and the residents of practically all of these reported bad leaks. The 150 homes which have received treatment were dry, it was reported.

It was still raining steadily in Boulder City at ten o'clock Sunday morning (March 9), but measurement figures were not available.

Travelers coming in from Los Angeles reported Cajon Pass open, but slick and chains were required to negotiate the mountain area. Snow was reported falling at Mountain Pass and Wheaton Springs, although the roads were negotiable.

Commercial airlines were landing at Nellis Air Base Saturday morning (March 8) as McCarren Field was "socked in" for one of the few times in the history of the airport.

A photograph of this storm was on the front page of this edition of the Review-Journal. The picture is of a car driving along Fifth Street.

Las Vegas Review Journal, July 27, 1952, #179, Vol. XLIV

A July thunderstorm, which whipped up out of the east and swept over most of the Las Vegas Valley late Friday afternoon (July 25) wrought damage to power lines, telephone service and some residential areas, it was reported Sunday morning (July 27), by the various agencies affected.

The height of the storm appeared to have centered in the Boulder City-Henderson section, although residents of the area just north of North Las Vegas reported damage to house trailers and residences in the low-lying area.

Power in Las Vegas went off twice when lightning struck the lines. The outages were only for a couple of minutes.

The storm brought nearly an inch of rain to Boulder City and the high wind uprooted trees and drenched many of the lawns in

the community.

> A photograph of this storm was on page 3 in this edition of the Review-Journal. The picture was of a trailer that had blown over twice, north of North Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Review Journal, July 29, 1952, #181, Volume XLIV

A thundershower which turned into a steady three-hour downpour, cooled off Las Vegas Monday night, July 28.

The storm was preceded by some high winds, which reached an estimated velocity of 50 miles per hour in some places, but there were no reports of any extensive damage. Some of the streets in the Huntridge area were badly washed, but no damage was reported, and some shoulders on the highways were washed as well.

The storm was nothing of cloudburst proportions, but developed into a gentle and soaking rain which filled downtown curbs to the brim and brought plenty of moisture for the parched lawns and shrubs of the residents.

The storm was fairly general in northern Nevada, with Tonopah reporting heavy cloudbursts with a .36 of an inch of rain in the past 24 hours. This was compared to .20 of an inch which came to Las Vegas.

> A photograph of this storm was on the front page of this edition of the Review-Journal. The picture was of a girl jumping over a large pool of water at the curb on Fifth and Fremont Streets.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, Sept. 19, 1952, #226, Volume XLIV

Southern Nevada was caught Friday, September 19th, in the center of a storm area, which was bringing showers throughout the desert from Las Vegas to San Diego, California, according to

reports of the U. S. Weather Bureau.

Mt. Charleston had the heaviest precipitation in the Clark County area, with .17 of an inch recorded from the beginning of the storm Thursday night (Sept. 18) until 10:30 A. M., Friday (Sept. 19), it was reported by Ranger Henry C. Hoffman.

The storm was centered in Las Vegas early Friday morning, but a few hours later was moving eastward.

The storm sent the thermometer plummeting from a high Thursday of 102 degrees to a maximum at 10:30 A. M., Friday, of only 78 degrees.

The wind which accompanied the storm varied at the McCarran Airport from 17 to 24 miles per hour, with the highest velocity reported at 30 miles per hour at 1:10 A. M., Friday. However, it was indicated that the gusts in downtown Las Vegas reached a higher velocity than that at the airport.

At Mt. Charleston, Ranger Hoffman reported that the rain started during the night, and it still was falling gently before noon Friday. A total of .17 inch of rain had been recorded at the ranger station in Kyle Canyon.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, Sept. 21, 1952, #227, Volume XLIV

Heavy rain, which started falling in Las Vegas early Friday morning (Sept. 19), had dumped a record breaking amount of moisture on the area.

The total rainfall for the past 24 hours has pushed the precipitation so far this year (1952) nearly .75 of an inch above

the normal for this time, the Weather Bureau reported.

According to the Weather Bureau, the storm was centered in the Las Vegas area as far as rain was concerned and would contimue for another 24 hours.

At Mt. Charleston, the rain which started Friday morning (September 19), had deposited 1.2 inches of precipitation, but there was no snow visible anywhere in the section, according to Henry C. Hoffman, Forest Ranger.

The rain, which soaked the Las Vegas Valley area with a record-breaking storm, threw the community of Henderson into complete blackness Friday night (September 19) and by Sunday morning (September 21) half the town still was without power. The failure, according to power officials, came when the rain caused a "flash-over" on a pole leading from the control room, burning the cross-arm which fell off the pole and dragged several hundred feet of wire down with it. The officials hoped to have the damage repaired by Saturday morning (Sept. 20), but at 11 o'clock, much of the town had no power, on Sunday morning.

Also reports from the housing area in Henderson indicated that roofs were leaking, despite the fact that new material had been placed on the roofs last spring and summer.

There was no estimate of the amount of damage done but it is expected to run into several hundreds of dollars.

Las Vegas Sun, March 23, 1954, #273, Volume IV

Las Vegas and most of the desert area of Eastern California was pelted with rain most of Monday, March 22.

A series of ten accidents Monday night were reported by the Las Vegas Police Department, with four of them occurring within a 10-minute period.

There were no reports of damage to homes or businesses because of water at either the police station or the sheriff's office.

Las Vegas received .67 of an inch of rain up to 10 P. M., Monday night, the Weather Bureau reported.

Las Vegas Sun, June 27, 1954, #53, Volume V

Torrents of rain fell Saturday (June 26) on Boulder City in an area west of there. The resulting flood of water inundated the Boulder Highway and homes in the area around Victory Village and Henderson.

It wasn't one cloudburst, rather, it was a series of the phenomena. The clouds ruptured over the Black Mountain area from where the water followed its natural course down the mountain slope and into a wash.

Sheriff's deputies said worst hit was the Vegas Wash area near the three-way stop light on the Boulder Highway. Millions of gallons of water boiled down either side of the highway and backed up in the culvert system there.

Swirling water, unable to find an outlet in the over-burdened culverts, scooped out tons of earth from beneath the highway and backed up into several homes in the Victory Village area.

Sheriff's deputies Don Peel and Bob Griffin were assigned to the flood area together with several Highway Patrol units.

Griffin said the highway was blocked for several hours between Railroad Pass and Henderson.

"The highway must have been built in an old wash, because the water was running due east along either side of the road," Griffin said.

When it reached its flood peak - about 1:00 P. M. - the water gushed over the highway. It swept boulders 12 inches in diameter up and over the road.

"For a time the highway was impassable both in the Las Vegas Wash area and on the east side of Railroad Pass," Griffin said.

The highway was opened to traffic at about 2:30 P. M.

The west-bound lane of the Boulder Highway was blocked by authorities some three miles west of Railroad Pass as water, mud, and boulders threatened to stall and damage vehicles.

Mayor James B. French, of Henderson, said, "We are hiring everyone we can find" to work on a drainage ditch to drain off water that ravaged some 100 homes in the Federal Home Development on the north side of the highway across from Henderson proper.

Victory Village was not the least of the areas hit. Several homeowners there were forced to knock out walls to allow mud and water to pass through.

The cleanup job on the highway, to say nothing of the job of drainage repair, will take at least a week, authorities estimated.

There were two photographs of this storm on page one and one on page three. One of the ones on the front page was of Boulder Highway, the other of the Manganese Park area. The picture on page three is of the inside of a house in Victory Village.

Las Vegas Sun, July 14, 1954, #70, Volume V

On Tuesday, July 13, thundershowers hit the Las Vegas area which was suffering 106-degree heat with humidity ranging from a low of 21 percent to a high of 83 percent.

The lightning which accompanied the downpour, which deposited .20 of an inch of rain on Las Vegas, did not do any serious damage, although it knocked out several circuits in one Southern Nevada Power Company System.

The only other report of damage in the thunderstorm came from the KLAS Television Station, where a blown-out power regulator hampered the station's operation for a while.

Nellis Air Force Base reported heavy thundershowers Tuesday evening (July 13) in which approximately one-quarter of an inch of rain fell within a period of one hour. There was no damage reported from lightning.

Las Vegas Sun, July 26, 1954, #82, Volume V

Flood torrents - fed by cloudbursts and thunderstorms - ripped up highways, disrupted telephone service, caused power failures and extensive property damage Sunday (July 25) throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

Areas hardest hit were Pittman and the southeast sector of

Las Vegas.

A bolt of lightning blasted a huge 50 by 75 foot wooden facade off the front of Jay's Bar in Pittman.

A telephone company service pole was blown over by high winds, landing on the roof of Bob's Bar and Grill in Whitney.

The south shoulder of the Boulder Highway between Pittman and Whitney was inundated by flood waters. Several cars and trucks were buried bumper deep in mud and had to be towed loose. Highway Department officials said the highway shoulder for a distance of a mile was destroyed by raging waters and would cost thousands to repair.

Henderson, too, bore the brunt of the thunderstorm which was localized in the mountains immediately southeast of the City. Damage was particularly severe along BMP Road and Atlantic Avenue. Residents with houses fronting on Atlantic Avenue spent many laborious hours leveling off a three-foot deep rut in the gutter so that they could get their cars out of their driveways.

A spokesman for Southern Nevada Telephone Company said some 275 telephones were knocked out of service during the storm. However, the spokesman said most of the phones affected were on "drop" lines off main cables, and that the main telephone trunk lines were not damaged. Service to Boulder City, however was partially disrupted by a line break, the spokesman said.

An official of the Southern Nevada Power Company said there were several brief power failures during Sunday's storm, lasting from 30 seconds to a minute. The power company spokesman said

the longest power "outage" occurred in Paradise Valley and the East Charleston area when current failed for 13 minutes.

The southeastern sector of Las Vegas was the most seriously affected by the storm. A four-foot high wall of water raged through a backyard at 211 Spencer Street, homeowner Jane Renis reported. She said a six-foot high cinder block wall on her property was knocked down by the flood waters for the second time. Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. DiGregorio reported similar damage on their property at 239 Spencer Street.

The U. S. Weather Station at McCarran Field said 1.18 inches of rain was measured Sunday (July 25), a third of the year's normal supply.

> Two photographs of damage done by this storm were on the front page of this edition of the Sun. Both pictures were of Jay's Bar in Pittman, which was struck by lightning.

Las Vegas Sun, September 2, 1954, #120, Volume V

A flash storm hit Las Vegas Wednesday night (September 1). The Spencer Street area was hardest hit, with water over a foot deep in some low places. The shower lasted only a few minutes. Shorted fuses on several phones interrupted service in scattered sections, and the fire department answered a report of electrical trouble at 524 West Bonanza. No major trouble was reported.

> A photograph of the storm was on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture is of residents standing in the water on Spencer Street.

Las Vegas Sun, September 3, 1954, #121, Volume V

Rain battered Las Vegas and its surrounding areas for the second consecutive day Thursday (September 2), and although no

serious damage was reported,many residents were inconvenienced and motorists harassed with mud and water.

Communication and electrical service were cut off in many parts of town Thursday, as wires were shorted out, and radio service was hampered during the heavy downpour, which was accompanied by thunder and lightning.

Telephone communications between Las Vegas and Henderson were disrupted for a short period of time Thursday night, and some difficulty was experienced in getting calls through to Boulder City, telephone company officials reported. Three serious outages were reported by the Southern Nevada Telephone Company and the two-in-a-row storms kept linemen working almost 24 hours without relief trying to repair the damage and keep Las Vegans in service. A main trunk cable carrying phone service to Nellis Air Force Base went out, which also affected the Lake Mead Ammunition Dump. When repairmen arrived to work on the damage they found the telephone manhole under eight feet of water and the fire department was called to pump it out. Another cable serving the southeast section of town, which includes Huntridge and Bel Air, was put out of commission and took repairmen some time to repair.

A photograph of damage done by this storm was on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture is of several cars in mud near the Showboat Hotel.

Las Vegas Sun, June 14, 1955, #38, Volume VI

A "tidal wave" of water from the mountains to the west swept down on Las Vegas Monday night (June 13) after a violent

thundershower of rain and hail, virtually isolating the City, flooding hundreds of homes and stores and causing an untold amount in property damage.

No fatalities were reported, but police and fire department workers answered scores of calls regarding possible drownings.

Residents of the Twin Lakes Subdivision reported that a four-foot wall of water came down from the slope of Mount Charleston. Hard hit was the Brentwood Park Tract, where large stocks of lumber, stacked for construction of new homes, were washed away by the flood, and littered the Municipal Golf Course and Twin Lakes Subdivision. A score of houses in the area around Orange and Beechwood Place, Arrow Place and Purple Sage Avenue had water rushing through the residences doing heavy damage. As the water passed through Twin Lakes, it washed away 100 yards of the retaining wall separating the subdivision from the Tonopah Highway.

Across town, crews rushed to the intersection of Charleston and Seventeenth where it was reported a woman had fallen into a ditch and drowned. She managed, however, to fight the swift current to high land, and was not hurt.

Telephone company officials said more than three-quarters of the telephones in the Las Vegas area were out. Phones in both the Henderson and North Las Vegas Police Stations were out of order and emergency messages to both offices were relayed by radio from the Sheriff's office. Telephone service to Paradise

Valley was cut off completely.

The power company had difficulty keeping their service operating, and power failures hit throughout various sections of the City. The power substation at the intersection of Water and BMP Roads shorted out early in the flood, but emergency crews were able to restore power later in the evening.

The roof of the S. R. McKinney and Sons Water Pump Company at 1042 South Main caved in at about 6:00 p. m., moments after several employees escaped from the building.

Road blocks were set up several times along the Boulder Highway between Las Vegas and Henderson when flash floods from higher ground covered the pavement with water and boulders. The sheriff's office reported that Highway 91 was open both north and south, and the Tonopah Highway was clear beyond the flooded areas at Twin Lakes.

Both the Charleston and Bonanza underpasses beneath the railroad tracks were completely flooded. A car was completely submerged in the water filling the Charleston underpass, but the occupants escaped before the level rose to the windows. Similarly, a taxi became mired in mud and water in the Bonanza underpass, but the passengers waded to high ground through waist-deep torrent.

Railroad traffic was halted on both sides of the City, after it was believed water had undermined the heavy concrete foundation of the Charleston underpass. The water undermined the Union Pacific Railroad tracks at several places, and all

trains in and out of the City were halted for a time.

Hardest hit area, according to Assistant Fire Chief Doug Williams, was the Mayfair District, east of Fifteenth Street, between Fremont and East Charleston. The worst spot was the intersection of Main and Charleston, as well as all streets south of Bonneville. The swiftly-moving water exceeded depths of 18 inches in many street corners. At 9:30 P. M., Williams said water was 16 feet deep in the Charleston underpass, and a depth of 11 feet at the Bonanza crossing.

Businesses lining the flooded areas suffered extreme water damage, and such businesses as the Anderson Dairy had to completely shut down operation Monday night to pump the water out of the buildings.

> Three photographs of this storm were on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The first picture was of the intersection of Main and Charleston Streets; the second was of the collapsed roof of the S. R. McKinney and Sons building; and the third of a police officer directing traffic at the intersection of Main and Charleston.

Las Vegas Sun, June 15, 1955, #39, Volume VI

> Two photographs of the flood on June 13, were on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The first picture was an aerial view of the flood's path through the Las Vegas area. The second picture was an aerial view of North Main Street in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Sun, June 17, 1955, #41, Volume VI

The Las Vegas Sewage Disposal Plant, clogged by tons of silt and mud from the flood on Monday, June 13, broke down almost completely on Thursday, June 16.

City officials had hope there would be no clogging at the

plant, but the tons of material that was fed into the combination sewers and storm drains finally worked its way through the systems.

An estimated $83,000 worth of damage was done to the City's sewer plant and the connecting lines, which are currently handling nearly 10 million gallons in volume daily.

A photograph of damage done by the flood of June 13th was on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of damage done near the Charleston Street underpass.

Las Vegas Sun, June 18, 1955, #42, Volume VI

A photograph of damage done by the flood on Monday, June 13th was on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of work being done to unclog the sewage plant in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Sun, July 24, 1955, #78, Volume VI

A storm unleashed a torrent of rain on Las Vegas Valley shortly after midnight Sunday, July 24, bringing near flood conditions remindful of the havoc wrought by the June 13th flood.

Quickly flooded Bonanza underpass was closed to vehicular traffic, when it became impassable.

The sudden cloudburst caused power outages in various sections of the City, but power was restored almost immediately. Short circuits caused the Civil Defense siren to go off at the County Court House Building and at the Fifth and Carson Streets branch of the Bank of Nevada.

Vegas Heights and Twin Lakes suffered again as waters approaching the near flood stage ran over curbs washing out lawns and doorways. A new housing development on Miller Street, near West College at the Vegas Heights underpass was reported a target

of the swirling waters sweeping down the Vegas Heights Hill. Threatening waters ran in bubbling rivulets down through the Westleigh Tract, sweeping rocks and soil onto Charleston Boulevard and cutting deep ravines along the roadside.

Water flooded the rear of the Sun Building destroying an estimated thousands of dollars worth of newsprint.

Workmen struggled to keep the Charleston underpass open with immediate pumping. Swirling waters about a foot deep eddied about workers as they battled to keep the road passible.

According to the weather station at McCarran Field, the flash cloudburst moved in on Las Vegas from the northeast, sweeping across the Las Vegas Valley to the southeast in a direct line. At midnight, 1.13 inches of precipitation had been measured by the station. But, an authority said, the gauge was continuing to mount rapidly.

Air facilities at McCarren Field were uninterrupted. Water splashed the runways, but spilled off into the airport's parking lot.

Las Vegas Sun, July 25, 1955, #78, Volume VI

Heavy rains from a storm Thursday night (July 21) soaked a water pump motor, causing it to break down leaving part of the residents on the west end of Whitney to be without water.

Ira Carter, Secretary of the Whitney Water Company, Inc., said that the County road crews failed to provide adequate drainage when they extended Nellis Boulevard to connect with Bond Road and that rainwater collected behind an earth fill, flooding

out the booster pump. Carter said that by 4:00 P. M. Saturday (July 23) normal service was restored to the community.

Las Vegas Sun, July 25, 1955, #79, Volume VI

The Las Vegas area was swamped for the second time on the same day by a violent cloudburst on Sunday, July 24.

Floodwater swept down on Henderson, swamping hundreds of homes and shutting off traffic on the Boulder Highway. Fifteen hours after the cloudburst, a flood struck Las Vegas with tremendous fury, causing moderate damage to areas of the City already hard hit by the flash flood June 13.

Most of the afternoon deluge centered on Tract Number Two on the east end of Henderson, where residents tried to slow down the rising tide by throwing up wooden barricades. Water as high as four feet deep flooded homes, leaving deposits of silt throughout the tract. Also hit hard by the flood were Victory Village and Carver Park. The Henderson Street Department worked far into the night to repair damaged streets and to remove mud from easements in the three inundated housing developments.

Water sweeping down from Tract Number Two closed the highway south of Henderson and other floodwaters cut off the Pittman Highway approach. U. S. Highway 93-95-466 was closed to traffic for nearly two hours, and highway patrolmen were stopping cars as far away as Railroad Pass. Jean and Mountain Pass were also hit by rainstorms, but U. S. Highway 91 was still open.

The beginning of the flood was announced by a brilliant display of lightning on all sides of Las Vegas which moved close to

the City early Sunday and then struck downtown. A lightning bolt of blinding intensity struck the McDonald Hotel at 208 North Fifth Street, shorting out a water cooler.

The McCarran Field U. S. Weather Bureau Station reported 1.29 inches of rainfall during the downpour early in the morning. Rain was apparently heavier in the northern portions of the City and lighter in the foothills of the Mt. Charleston Range.

The Bonanza underpass was filled with water, as it was on June 13, but steady pumping emptied it later in the day. Police said an unidentified auto was stuck in the Bonanza underpass and was completely under water. It had to be removed Sunday afternoon before the underpass could be opened to traffic.

The flood fanned out throughout the lower portions of Las Vegas, particularly on East Charleston, and covered most City streets with several inches of water. The current on West Charleston, virtually a raging river in the early hours of Sunday morning, picked up a vehicle driven by S. F. Boyle and moved the car several feet before it jolted to a stop against a pile of topsoil on Shadow Street.

North Las Vegas was darkened for 48 minutes between 12:15 and 1:13 P. M., Sunday, during the height of the storm. Other power outages were in the downtown Las Vegas area, for 30 seconds at 10:42 P. M. Saturday (July 23) and for two minutes shortly after midnight.

The Twin Lakes Village retaining wall was again smashed as

a 150 foot section of the half-mile wall was carried away by floodwaters. Newly planted lawns on Silver Lake Drive, Purple Sage Avenue, Magnolia Avenue and Riverside Drive were washed away. Water covered the floor of the home of Superintendent of Schools R. Guild Gray, away on a vacation, but neighbors cleaned up the house. The Glen Heather and McNeil tracts, under construction in the West Charleston area, were left high and dry, but freshly dug ditches for sewer pipes were caved in.

The flood also roared through two ditches north and south of the Municipal Golf Course and gathered force through the Twin Lakes tract enroute to the Charleston and Bonanza underpasses.

There were six photographs of this storm in this edition of the Sun. The first one was of a washed portion of the Boulder Highway. The second was of Dell Street in Henderson. The third one was of a car which was stuck near East College Boulevard. The fourth one was of the destroyed retaining wall between the Twin Lakes Village and the Tonopah Highway. The fifth was of a dirt road in the College Park area of North Las Vegas, and the sixth one was of a car churning through water on Charleston Street in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Sun, August 26, 1955, #111, Volume VI

One of the worst thunderstorms in the history of the Bunkerville area hit that area Thursday, August 25.

Union Pacific rail traffic was disrupted for eight hours and the main highway between Las Vegas and Salt Lake City was closed to all traffic until noon Thursday. State highway crews and a dozen pieces of equipment opened the thoroughfare to one-way traffic at noon and by 4:00 P. M. traffic was normal again.

The disrupted road conditions centered about 25 miles northeast of Glendale. Otis Wright, southern Nevada engineer

for the Highway Department, said the water tore up about 100 feet of pavement and road shoulders to depths of eight feet.

In Toquop Wash, water was running an estimated 15 feet deep and 100 feet wide beneath the highway bridge over the normally dry creek bed. The Thorne Construction Company's gravel bed in the creek was completely submerged.

Many fields in Bunkerville and in Mesquite were flooded and standing in pools of water Thursday night, hours after the storm had subsided. The Virgin River was carrying water about four feet in depth in all of its several hundred feet in width. The Muddy River was not so full.

Property owners in the Logandale and Moapa Valley areas were also hard hit by a flash flood Thursday. Six feet of water was reported pouring down the Meadow Valley Wash and residents were anticipating the peak runoff late Thursday night. Worst hit were William Hopkins, Glenn Jensen, Jay Whipple and Lynn Adams who attempted to sandbag their property, dig ditches, and divert the water.

A photograph of this cloudburst was on page 2 of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of the water covering highway 93 in the Moapa Valley area.

Las Vegas Sun, July 23, 1956, #52, Volume VII

Las Vegas was plagued by power outages, flooded streets, skidding autos and screaming sirens as thunder showers hit the City and surrounding areas at 9:30 Sunday night, July 22.

The heavy downpour covered the entire Las Vegas Valley, according to a U. S. Weather Bureau expert at McCarran Field.

Power outages hit various sections of the City as lines were blown down by great gusts of wind. At 400 South First Street, a power company transformer caught fire and the fire department was called to extinguish the blaze.

Throughout the City, cars skidded on the slick pavements and Sheriff's officers reported at least one serious accident caused by the heavy rains. Traffic was further hindered by the power outages which caused traffic lights to go out.

Las Vegas residents became alarmed when the air raid siren atop the County Courthouse began blaring away at the height of the storm. The siren was touched off by a short circuit in the alarm system caused by the rain.

Las Vegas Sun, July 25, 1956, #54, Volume VII

Heavy rains hit Las Vegas shortly after 9:00 P. M. Tuesday night (July 24), flooding various areas of the City.

The most serious damage reported was the breaking of water mains in different sections of the City. Streets were flooded in Huntridge when a water main burst there. Another main broke near the intersection of Fifth and Garces, sending water 75 feet into the air and causing damage to dwellings.

Hyde Park and the surrounding West Charleston area was hard hit by water which flooded the streets. In a freak accident, a lightning bolt hit the Panorama Market at 410 West Charleston. Little damage resulted and none of the shoppers in the store at the time were injured. A large amount of water was also reportec

Intersections in various parts of the City were flooded

with cars traveling bumper deep in water. The busy intersection at Fifth and Main was deep in flood water shortly after the downpour commenced.

The Salt Lake Highway was reported to be impassable to traffic at midnight. Highway patrolmen reported it had rained heavily between Las Vegas and Baker, and travelers were discouraged from attempting to get through.

At McCarran Field, the entire lobby was flooded, but personnel reported the downpour did not delay any flights, which continued to arrive and depart on schedule.

Traffic was slowed down by Tuesday night's flood, but not halted as it was in 1955. Underpasses on West Charleston and on Bonanza were not flooded as they were in 1955, and traffic was passing through them freely. When the rains hit in July of 1955, the drains in both underpasses became clogged and in a short time, were almost completely filled with water.

Motorists on Highway 91 Strip reported that torrents of water poured down the wide thoroughfare from the direction of the City, flooding the street from curb to curb.

Two photographs of this storm were on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The first was of the broken water main at Fifth and Garces Streets. The second picture was of the water covering the intersection of South Fifth and South Main.

Las Vegas Sun, July 26, 1956, #55, Volume VII

Three railroad men were painfully injured after the rainstorm of Tuesday night, July 24, when a local freight to the Blue Diamond Mine was derailed and plunged into a ditch after

a rain-soaked roadbed slid out under the weight. It was estimated that 500 feet of track was washed out as the big engine skidded into a ditch, estimated to be about 15 feet deep, near the spur's crossing of the Mt. Springs Road, about eight miles from the Los Angeles Highway.

Taken to the Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital were Joseph L. Shepard, 58, of 918 South Fourth Street, a brakeman; Edwin Lincoln, 52, of 1310 Franklin Avenue, a brakeman; and Albert S. Woods, 57, of 823 South First Street, Apartment 10, a fireman.

Two photographs of this derailed train were on the front page of this edition of the Sun.

Las Vegas Sun, July 29, 1956, #90, Volume VII

High winds and a hailstone storm heralded a cloudburst which struck the west side of Las Vegas with a flash flood Saturday afternoon (July 28) that turned streets into streams and threatened homes in the area.

The flood was largely confined to the region between Charleston Heights and the Union Pacific tracks. The muddy waters were channeled down Evergreen Avenue, Decatur Boulevard, and West Charleston Boulevard. Although clogged by debris for a short period, the Charleston underpass was kept open throughout the time of danger.

No serious damage was reported, however, several homes in the Charleston Heights, Hyde Park, and Westleigh tracts were under several inches of water.

Strong gusts of wind at about 1:15 P. M. were the forerunner

of the flash flood. Hailstones followed to account for broken windows in the Cliff May Subdivision. Awnings were torn loose and several fences blew down before the downpour.

Weathermen at McCarran Field reported only .13 inches of rain, but a heavier amount fell in the foothills to the west. Following a typical, destructive runoff pattern, the rain waters began to race eastward approximately an hour later. Mud, rocks, and brush were swept down Evergreen Avenue past Upland Boulevard. Drains at Brush Street and Cactus Lane were jammed allowing waters to mount dangerously close to homes there. Water was deep enough to permit children to swim in the streets.

Rushing waters deepened the gulch at Red Rock School, Fir Avenue and Upland Boulevard, forming a miniature waterfall and crumbling walls of the gulch already close to the school yard.

Minor damage was reported to newly laid paving on Decatur Boulevard and City bulldozer's blades were rushed in to stem the waters threatening the road-widening project on the hill between Hyde Park and Westleigh on West Charleston Boulevard. Water brimmed to the curbs along most Hyde Park streets and welled up along Bedford Place.

As the runoff gathered momentum, the flood hit the Hinson Tract and Westleigh with force and carried down West Charleston past Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital.

A minor road washout occurred at the south end of town at the scene of the 1956 flood.

Three photographs of this storm were on the front page

and one photograph was on page four of this edition of the Sun. The first one on page one was of the gulch at Red Rock School; the second was of the flooded Charleston Heights area; and the third was of the water covering Brush Street. The picture on page four was of children playing in the water in Cedar Manors development.

Las Vegas Sun, July 11, 1957, #41, Volume VIII

A late afternoon cloudburst on Wednesday (July 10) in the mountains behind Las Vegas sent flood waters roaring through Paradise Valley cutting off two roads and stranding a number of families living on Tomiyasu Lane.

Flood waters were also reported in the Sloan area, however, no damage was reported there by the Sheriff's Office.

At least four families were still isolated in Paradise Valley at a late hour Wednesday night, and one home in the area was reported inundated.

Exact location of the cloudburst could not be determined. A heavy rain was reported in Kyle Canyon by Ranger H. C. Hoffman However, Hoffman said that the cloudburst must have hit somewhere between Spring Mountain and the valley.

Both Tomiyasu Lane and Warm Springs Road were cut off Wednesday night by flood waters from five to six feet deep. The water was cutting into the unpaved roads because no culverts had been constructed to take care of any flood emergency. The two roads were cut off at about 5:00 P. M.

Many cars were stranded on both sides of the floodwaters.

A photograph of the damage done by the flash flood was on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of water running across Tomiyasu Lane.

Las Vegas Sun, July 27, 1957, #57, Volume VIII

A noontime cloudburst struck Las Vegas Friday, (July 26), drenching residential areas and sending water rushing up to curb levels in the downtown section. No serious flood threat was posed, although police and engineering forces were alerted in the event of flash floods similar to those that hit Las Vegas in 1955.

Approximately 1,000 telephones were out of service, due to the heavy rain and lightning. This was only between two and three percent of the system, however, and not considered "too bad," in view of the amount of rainfall. Most of the telephones in Paradise Valley were out of service. Other areas most seriously affected were West Charleston, the "Strip," and trunk lines to Henderson. Barring further heavy rains, most of the telephones were expected to be back in service Saturday (July 27).

Muddy rivulets lapped at points into the middle of West Charleston Boulevard, but were not as deep and rapid as those which rushed down the thoroughfare in an area-confined flash flood in late 1956.

Low-level homes near the intersection of East Charleston Boulevard and Fremont Street were soaked in the downhill advance of the waters.

No serious traffic accidents were reported during the cloudburst and intermittent downpours that continued for several hours.

A photograph of damage done by this cloudburst is on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of the undermined intersection of Washington and Decatur Lane.

Las Vegas Sun, August 22, 1957, #83, Volume VIII

Thunderstorms drenched the Las Vegas Valley with a record 2.57 inches of rain Wednesday (August 21). The storms tore up highways, county roads, isolated Vegas Heights, and caused damage to City streets estimated at $50,000.

Most of the rain fell between 7 and 9 A. M. Wednesday. The rain gauge read three-quarters of an inch more than the previous 24-hour period of record rainfall, an August day in 1942.

Most of the main highways were open during the daylight hours Wednesday, however, torrents of water deposited tons of debris in the asphalt roadbeds and caused some of the county's secondary arteries to become impassable.

The Los Angeles Highway was shut down for about four hours. Officers of the California Highway Patrol halted northbound traffic at Mt. Pass, about 20 miles inside the State line. The officers reported that the pavement was littered by debris. Nevada authorities first halted southbound traffic at the Highway Patrol Checking Station at Jean, however, the road blocks were set up opposite McCarran Airport, as it appeared that the road would be impassable for some time. The shutdown of the vital California Highway link was not as serious as first feared and it was reopened later Wednesday morning.

Although portions of Highway 91 were washed out near the

Lake Mead Base, the road was listed as passable by the Nevada Highway Patrol. A washout on Highway 95 between Railroad Pass and Searchlight reportedly made that route impassable.

Officials of the Nevada Highway Department said that the two widening projects north and south of Las Vegas, were hard hit by the flood waters. Construction crews were forced to tear out part of the old road on the strip to save the newly-constructed four-lane section.

Sheriff's Deputies said that 200 yards of the Bond Road between Paradise Road and Highway 91 was washed out and impassable.

Part of the Boulder Highway was blockaded near Channel 2 after flood waters undermined the road and caused a cave-in. A Highway Department spokesman said also that part of the paved road to Nelson, between Boulder City and Searchlight was washed out.

Two Union Pacific passenger trains, the City of Los Angeles and the City of St. Louis, were stalled briefly by weakened roadbeds, but a gondola car full of ballast beefed up the track and the streamliners moved on.

The Bonanza underpass was kept open through the downpour through the efforts of the Highway Department and City officials. The Charleston Underpass was flooded and impassable.

Vegas Height's 1,000 residents were bottled up for hours because of flood conditions on Highland Avenue, and the closing of the Miller Street underpass. Two tracts in North Las Vegas

were isolated. There was a serious flood hazard in the Sandhill and Eastern roads section of Desert Inn Road, which isolated some of the residents.

City Manager A. H. Kennedy said that Las Vegas fared well compared to the $450,000 in damage to City property suffered two years prior in a flash flood. Street damage was mainly confined to San Francisco, Decatur, the Owens Street Overpass of the railroad tracks, and a washout on East Bonanza where gravel had been spread prior to a paving project, Kennedy said.

Three photographs of this flash flood were on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The first picture was of an over-turned truck on East Charleston Boulevard. The other two pictures were of the area around the Ray Evans home on Tomayasu Lane in Paradise Valley.

Las Vegas Sun, August 24, 1957, #85, Volume VIII

All equipment, and all crews of the National Park Service were working Saturday (August 24) under Maintenance Supervisor Hubert Atchison to open roads in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area which were washed out in the record rainfalls Tuesday, August 20, and Wednesday, August 21. According to Superintendent Charles A. Richey, the damage, worst in 10 years, will amount to $50,000 in addition to repairs which can be made with current funds and by the crews now in the field.

There was considerable damage at Overton and Boulder Beach on Lake Mead and Catherine and Cottonwood on Lake Mohave.

The concession in this resort area which was hardest hit was Murl Emory's fishing resort in narrow Eldorado Canyon below Nelson on Lake Mohave, which is now closed to the public.

The cafe was crushed and filled with silt and rocks, a large meat freezer being overturned among other damage. The docks were pushed into the lake and boats were crushed as the harbor filled with earth, boulders and debris. The concessioner lost his cruiser and a pickup truck which was washed into the lake.

Three photographs of damage done by this flash flood were on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The first picture is of the cafe in Eldorado Canyon; the second is of the damaged pier at Murl Emory's Eldorado Canyon fishing camp, and the third picture is of a washout on the National Park Service Highway below Nelson.

Las Vegas Sun, June 22, 1958, #18, Volume IX

A savage flash flood with a crest estimated at seven feet washed out a five-mile section of the Nelson Road Saturday (June 21) at about 4:00 P. M., isolating the popular fishing spot for several hours.

A dry ravine leading down from the nearby mountains was turned into a boiling stream of muddy water, as desert trees and huge boulders were torn up and carried along by the force of the flood.

There were no cars on the stretch of highway when the flood struck, it was reported. Clayton Kiggins, maintenance foreman for the State Highway Department, said the subsiding waters left the road covered with silt, boulders and other debris, making travel possible, but dangerous.

According to Raymond Yoss of North Las Vegas, who covered the El Dorado Canyon Road just before the washout, the flash

flood was several miles long. Large boulders and debris covered most of the highway. At one spot the wash had taken out a 16 foot long, four foot deep section of the road. Yoss also reported that some cars were held up from 30 minutes to one hour.

Officer William Reasonover of the Boulder Ranger Station said they had received a call at 5:30 P. M. reporting the flood from a "Mr. Mitchell" who placed the flash floods as being seven miles from Boulder on the Nelson cutoff.

A crew of about 10 men and heavy road equipment started the task Sunday (June 27) of clearing the road. Kiggins estimated the job would take about 10 hours or more.

Las Vegas Sun, July 30, 1958, #56, Volume IX

An expected flash flood swept through Paradise Valley late Tuesday (July 29) as a six foot wall of murky water cascaded down Flamingo Wash between Flamingo and Bond Roads. Crest of the flood hit about 6:00 P. M.

The Paradise Valley Road was covered with a shrub and rock-filled river at a point where it intersects the wash.

Road crews began to clear Paradise and Mojave Roads and Maryland Parkway on Wednesday (July 30). All roads were passable at a late hour Tuesday night.

As predicted Tuesday, the flood followed heavy rains in surrounding foothills and the Mt. Charleston area earlier Tuesday. Cloudbursts were reported in outlaying communities through out the day Tuesday, although Las Vegas proper was scarcely

touched by the threatening thunderheads.

There was no estimate of damage to homes in the Paradise Valley area, if any, available. Wally Pinjur and George Cromer said a storage shed for the P and G construction company was in the direct path of the water, but damage had not yet been determined.

> A photograph of the flash flood is on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture is of the flood waters in the Paradise Valley.

Las Vegas Sun, September 7, 1958, #95, Volume IX

High winds and heavy rain followed in the wake of fierce electrical storms which lashed the Las Vegas Valley Saturday night (September 6). Floods from mountain runoffs were expected to hit Sunday morning (September 7).

The McCarran Field weatherman said Saturday night that floods in many valley regions could be expected after the thorough drenching mountain regions received during the night.

Cloudbursts hit hard all around Las Vegas Saturday night but only light showers had fallen in the City proper by midnight. Wind gusts, measured up to 40 mph, ripped up bushes and at times shrouded the downtown area with dust.

Rain washed out the Junior Chamber of Commerce carnival in Boulder City as members were forced to close games and booths when the downpour hit about 9:00 P. M.

Despite heavy rain in outlying areas, all roads were reported clear by the sheriff's office.

Las Vegas Sun, November 13, 1958, #162, Volume IX

Stricken hard by Tuesday evening's (November 11) rain-caused flood, city and county officials were tallying in dollars and cents Wednesday night, the extensive damage to public and private property and estimating in over-time man-hours the cost of repairs.

Las Vegas's estimate of $60,000 worth of damage from the flood, added to the $10,000 in the county area and an estimated $50,000 in battered North Las Vegas, brought the total to $120,000, a heavy toll for the storm, which began gently Tuesday afternoon.

City crews in both Las Vegas and North Las Vegas were busy throughout Wednesday clearing intersections of washed-in gravel, tree limbs and other debris which had halted or snarled traffic for nearly 24 hours.

Las Vegas Sun, August 2, 1959, #57, Volume X

A storm that caused lights to flicker in Las Vegas and kicked up dust storms generally throughout the area, struck worst at Indian Springs, 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas. There a twister struck the Atomic View Trailer Court at about 2:15 P. M. and knocked over three large mobil homes and two smaller ones. shattered the glass in several buildings and snapped off TV antennas.

Meanwhile, it was reported that the northbound Union Pacific City of Las Vegas was held up for 45 minutes south of Las Vegas after rains apparently disrupted the signal system.

In Las Vegas, a rain squall caused a minor flood about 2:00 P. M. in the vicinity of Brush and Evergreen Streets, with water flowing running-board deep before it drained off.

The Clark County Road Department was called out to repair a segment of the Blue Diamond Road, about a mile and a half off the Mountain Springs Road, because of a partial washout, the sheriff's office reported.

Sgt. Bob Goerke, of the Nevada Highway Patrol, reported that a bad dust storm made driving difficult between Las Vegas and Glendale during the storm period, and that rain squalls were prevalent between Alamo and Caliente during the morning.

A photograph of this storm is on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture is of children playing in the water in the 600 block of Brush Street.

Las Vegas Sun, August 8, 1959, #63, Volume X

Rain and wind dumped the worst floods in three years on Henderson, covered Tonopah Highway with water at the Charleston cutoff and broke a restaurant's $500 plate glass window in the new Francisco Square shopping center Friday night (August 7).

Early reports of a five-foot wall of water washing off the mountains in the Railroad Pass area toward Henderson gave officials some uneasy moments until they learned that the run-off had shifted toward Lake Mead without damaging property.

In Las Vegas, two minor fires resulted from the storm, as a power pole cross arm burned in front of 215 George Place and another small fire sprung up when a power line came down on Rose Street behind Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital.

Southern Nevada Telephone Company officials reported that about 200 phones went out of service due to the storm.

Vegas Wash Road was closed to traffic for an hour during the worst part of the storm.

Flood waters were almost curb high in Henderson and traffic was tied up requiring policemen to direct traffic as signal lights were stuck for an hour.

Gusts of wind at speeds up to 25 miles per hour whipped the rain along the streets and highways, according to the U. S. Weather Bureau.

Las Vegas Sun, August 12, 1959, #67, Volume X

Thousands of gallons of rain water, produced by a brief, but violent thunderstorm late Tuesday (August 11), rushed down the eastern slopes of Mt. Charleston and smashed through an earthen dike to cause what could have been the worst flash flood in Las Vegas's history.

Although it was unable to hold back the swollen rain water, the dike did prevent a repeat of the disastrous flash floods of July and August, 1955, according to Public Works Director Richard Saucer.

Hardest hit was the southwestern section of Las Vegas, which took the brunt of the flood when it crumpled an emergency flood control dike at a point west of the city limits.

The torrent poured down West Charleston Boulevard, snarling traffic for hours when it sealed up the Charleston underpass. The flood also swamped residential districts along Decatur and

Arville Streets.

Considerable -- but minor -- property damage was reported by home owners in the Hyde Park, Los Verdes and Brentwood housing developments.

The flood swirled across the desert in turbulent rivlets, emptying into basins in the lower portions of Paradise Valley.

When the water crashed through the dike -- built in 1957 in lieu of a permanent flood control system to be constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers -- it roared down West Charleston, and within 30 minutes had filled the Charleston underpass. By 9:15 P. M., the flood had crested at eight feet in the underpass. Traffic was rerouted around the swollen underpass. The underpass was finally drained and reopened at a late hour Tuesday night.

One thousand telephones in the West Las Vegas and Paradise Valley areas were knocked out as a result of the storm. Heaviest outages were reported in Charleston Heights, Hyde Park and Brentwood in the West Charleston area, Boris Terrace in North Las Vegas, and along East Charleston Boulevard.

In addition to West Charleston Boulevard, hardest hit thoroughfares were Bond and Paradise Roads, Maryland Parkway and Flamingo Road, which were totally swamped; Bedford Avenue, which was under about two feet of water; 25th Street, from Bonanza Road to College Avenue which, at the height of the storm was impassable.

Mud-slick streets caused a traffic hazard, with numerous

auto accidents reported. A Ringsby County truck and trailer, driven by Raymond Troy Bunch, 37, of 2800 Derter Way, skidded out of control and jack-knifed into a power pole at San Francisco Street and Las Vegas Boulevard South. The huge truck sheared off the pole at its base, causing a power outage in the immediate area. Bunch was uninjured.

Public Works Director Sauer said, "The flood could have been worse had it not been for the dike, which runs north and south, west of the City. We had hoped the dike would hold. Although it did not, it did keep the water from spilling uncontrolled through the entire City."

It was noted that both the Miller Street and Bonanza Road underpasses were not closed by the storm, as has been the case in the past floods.

Three photographs of this flash flood were on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The first picture was of two children in a boat on Hinson Street. The second picture was of cars driving through the water on Arville Road. The third picture was of a West Charleston-Westwood Drive home surrounded by water.

Las Vegas Sun, August 18, 1959, #73, Volume X

Henderson and the Eastwood area of Las Vegas were hit the hardest Monday (August 17) as thunderstorms flooded streets and caused power failures.

More than 100 phones were out in the Eastwood area and several circuits were down in Henderson. There were a few scattered outages around Las Vegas, according to a Southern Nevada

Telephone Company Spokesman.

City crews were busy cleaning streets in Henderson as wind-blown branches blocked streets, Water Street was flooded, and many lights went out during the storm.

The Las Vegas area escaped damage although it was feared at one time there might be a chance of heavy rain and possible flood.

Las Vegas Sun, July 22, 1960, #34, Volume II

Telephone service between Las Vegas and Henderson was halted intermittently Thursday night (July 21) by a flash thunderstorm in the Las Vegas area. Calls were going through only sporadically, a spokesman for the Southern Nevada Telephone Company said.

Emergency crews worked through Thursday night to return service, and it was expected that normal operations would be resumed Friday morning.

Meanwhile the lightning caused power failures of from 12 to 15 telephones in the 1300 block of Francis Street, when several power lines were knocked down. The lines fell between two houses, the Fire Department said, and the homes were burned slightly.

Four cars collided at Main and Carson, skidding in the Heavy sheets of rain in the brief downpour, which struck in mid-afternoon and lasted a little less than an hour. There were no injuries in the accident, however.

Two power meters were hit by lightning behind the Leavitt

Building in the 200 block of East Utah Street. They were shorted out, the Fire Department said.

Las Vegas Sun, September 4, 1960, #78, Volume II

No damage was reported in the Las Vegas area Saturday night (September 3) after the town absorbed nearly a quarter of an inch of rain.

The only precipitation gauge in the area, located at McCarran Airport, registered .23 of an inch of rain Saturday. County road and maintenance personnel were alerted for possible flash floods when it was expected Las Vegas would bear the brunt of runoff waters from heavy rains in the Charleston area.

However, no flood damage was reported after the road and maintenance officers made a complete survey of the county area.

Las Vegas Sun, September 6, 1960, #80, Volume II

Rain squalls, surrounding the Las Vegas area Monday night (September 5) caused two road blockages from flash floods and an unconfirmed report of a landslide.

Opened Monday night, was U. S. Highway 91 South, which had been closed temporarily at Valley Wells by a flash flood that had piled water up against a dirt embankment and formed a lake over the road where it was being widened to four lanes.

Closed Monday night, was U. S. Highway 95 North into Beatty, by a flash flood, according to Clark County sheriff's deputies.

U. S. Highway 77 was blocked by a landslide 32 miles south of Searchlight, according to unconfirmed reports, deputies said.

Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal, Nov. 7, 1960, #312, Vol. LII

(There was one photo of flooded Moapa Valley on the front page). The weekend rainstorm which gave the area a three-day drenching caused little trouble locally, but major disasters in Moapa Valley and Eldorado Canyon.

The major cleanup job was in the section around Eastern and St. Louis avenues. Overflowing flood waters of the former Vegas Wash drainage area tied up traffic in the East Bonanza and Nellis Boulevard District.

The U. S. Weather Bureau at McCarran Field reported that a total of 1.83 inches of rain fell during the three days. This was the heaviest fall since the one-day flood storm of August 21, 1957, when 2.59 inches inundated the community.

The greatest loss was in the Moapa area; the Meadow Valley and California Washes poured heavy runoffs into the Muddy River and sent it on a rampage through the valley.

Major highway damage was on U. S. 93 north of Glendale where nearly a quarter mile of the highway shoulder was undermined to a depth of three or four feet.

The roaring flood began to subside Sunday night and by midnight, the flow of the river was nearly back to normal.

Las Vegas Sun, April 7, 1961, #293, Volume II

Water on the eastern fringes of Las Vegas Thursday night (April 6) was caused by runoff from the Sheep Mountain Range earlier in the day. Rain fell on the mountainous area late Thursday afternoon.

One resident of the 5800 block of East College Street said the water rising in front yards along the street was the result of poor flood control planning. He said road officials contributed to the problem by constructing roads that "dip" in the wrong spots, and had refused to grade a small diversionary ditch along the side of the street.

Trailers in a nearby trailer park were in some cases surrounded by the water, and residents were keeping a wary "flood watch" although there appeared to be little likelihood that the trailers, several inches off the ground, would be endangered.

Las Vegas Sun, July 4, 1961, #14, Volume XII

The heaviest rain in the Las Vegas area in 83 days caused an electrical power outage, telephone failures and numerous traffic tie-ups and minor accidents.

The .08 rainfall, which dropped the high temperature Monda (July 3) to 81 degrees, first caused trouble when a lightning bolt struck a 1,200 volt primary power line on Maryland Parkway near Nevada Southern University early Monday morning.

According to power company spokesmen, power was partially restored soon after the outage as workers toiled in the rain to repair the line. Complete service was restored to the remainin

area within several hours.

Meanwhile, Southern Nevada Telephone Company was experiencing difficulties. It reported that the Las Vegas-to-Henderson cable was soaked in places where it was strung above the ground. The rain damaged cable prevented any long distance calls to or from Henderson, where there were approximately 3,000 telephones. Local Henderson calls went unimpaired according to a telephone company spokesman, but Vegas-to-Henderson calls were delayed by several hours. The soaked cable was first noticed Monday morning (July 3) with workers laboring throughout the day to dry the cable. Complete service was restored about 7:00 P. M.

Although the rain did end a 23-day string of 100 degrees or above temperatures, it was blamed for several minor traffic mishaps in the area. Slippery roads and poor visibility were cited as causes for the accidents.

Las Vegas Sun, July 24, 1961, #35, Volume XII

Winds up to 50 miles an hour accompanied thunderstorms which hit scattered spots in the Las Vegas Valley Monday (July 24).

Monday's brief storms were violent. No injuries were officially attributed to the weather by late Monday night.

In North Las Vegas, hail was an added threat as a torrent of rain pelted the area for a half hour. Late Monday afternoon North Las Vegas Police officials said they had not yet received any calls of damage, but were standing by, due to the flooded

streets.

Meanwhile, Harry Clark, deputy sheriff, reported his 50-foot house trailer, on Craig Road was knocked from its foundation by the heavy gusts of wind.

A report from the National Park Rangers at Lake Mead said it had been raining for the greater part of the day, adding that a small craft warning was issued as soon as winds passed the 20 mile per hour mark. Rangers said no accidents were reported.

Las Vegas Sun, July 31, 1961, #41, Volume XII

A cloudburst and high winds struck Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and parts of Paradise Valley Sunday afternoon, July 30.

Streets were flooded, trees uprooted, windows smashed, phone cables cut, autos stalled, power outages caused, and a new roller rink wrecked in the havoc created by the storm, which meanwhile, avoided Henderson and Boulder City for the most part.

Blown over on its side, was the 48-foot house trailer of Walter and Elva Mongeon at Broad Acres Trailer Court, at 2934 Las Vegas Boulevard, North near Pecos, North Las Vegas police reported. Manager Bill Peters reported that neither of the Mongeons were injured.

Struck by lightning meanwhile at the same trailer court, was the trailer of Rudolph and Hazel Coleman, an elderly couple. They, too, both escaped injury, Peters said.

Blown clear across the intersection of 25th and Owens in

North Las Vegas by the fierce gusts was a "U-Haul" trailer five by twelve feet in size that was slammed into a car owned by Olen Lane, Jr., of 3015 Wright. Nobody was hurt, according to North Las Vegas police.

About $25,000 to $30,000 damage to a roller rink being built on Foremaster Lane near Woodlawn Cemetery was reported by the Jolley Construction Company.

Trees were torn or broken over on their sides all around town, crashing onto the tops of parked cars in at least two cases, at 2317 McWilliams and 2008 Marlin.

Las Vegas Hospital was cut off from telephone communication when a Southern Nevada Telephone Company cable went out.

Power outages were caused in several parts of the area, including some places in downtown Las Vegas, and at the intersection of South Main and Fifth Streets.

Heavy street flooding was reported by police and the Nevada Highway Patrol in many areas - notably Fremont and 25th where many cars stalled, and East Bonanza Road and East Owens Avenue between 25th and Nellis Boulevard - but waters were subsiding rapidly later in the day.

Power lines were down in at least two places, Ellis Street and the 1800 block of Hoover, according to reports by the North Las Vegas Fire District alone, and outages plagued the north end of the Strip and the Desert Park neighborhood, as well as downtown Las Vegas and other areas.

Only a couple of traffic accidents were reported by late

Sunday, much to the pleasure and surprise of local lawmen, and both were minor, with nobody requiring hospitalization.

No houses were flooded, but many streets became virtual canals. College Avenue and other arteries in low lying North Las Vegas were especially inundated.

> Two photographs of this storm were on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The first picture was of a car which a tree had fallen on at 2008 Marlin Street. The second picture was of the broken window of the Public Finance Company office on 731 Fremont Street.

Las Vegas Sun, August 12, 1961, #53, Volume XII

On Friday, August 12, Las Vegas was hit by the worst flooding so far for the year. The flooding was caused by mountain runoff west of Las Vegas.

Charleston Heights, Hyde Park, Vegas Heights and North Las Vegas apparently took the brunt of the storm.

No damage of serious consequence, nor serious auto accidents were reported as a result of the flooding, but authorities warned that mud, silt and debris had been deposited along some of the affected streets.

Power company workers reported a flurry of brief outages, six of them within a period of one hour, as a result of the precipitation and resultant flooding. Two such interruptions of electrical service hit the Las Vegas SUN offices and printing plant, but power was quickly restored in both instances. The Las Vegas police department also was affected briefly by power service problems, as was the sheriff's department, but neither agency encountered any difficulty as a result of the interruptions

A meteorologist at the weather station at McCarran Field said residents of Sproul Homes in the West Charleston area reported hail and flood-like conditions during the late afternoon. Mrs. Lewis Thomas, 6105 Preston Circle, said the Charleston Heights area was dashed by hail which "covered the ground."

The U. S. Weather Station at the county airport was not touched by the rainfall. The weatherman on duty there Friday night said precipitation measured at the bureau was nil.

Two photographs of this flood were on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The first picture was of the water on the Municipal Golf Course. The second was of two children playing in water which poured down the 4500 block of Providence Lane.

Las Vegas Sun, August 20, 1961, #60, Volume XII

The brief, but spirited winds and rains, which hit the Clark County area, were heaviest in Henderson and other outlying areas.

Most seriously injured victim of storm-connected accidents was eight-year-old Jay Pusty of San Berno, California, who was admitted to Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital for observation. Jay and his brother, Guy, were taken to the hospital by Mercy Ambulance after a freak accident on Washington Street involving a piece of heavy equipment which lost a wheel. Traffic officers still were investigating the unusual accident Saturday night.

An unidentified motorist slammed into a fire plug at Highland and Bonanza, sheering off the fixture and flooding the intersection, Las Vegas Police reported.

In the County area, Highway Patrolmen were kept on the run to fenderbending minor collisions, many times finding, when they arrived at the scene, the drivers settled the damages themselves and departed.

In Henderson, where the rains apparently were heavier than other sections, the storm struck suddenly with a solid sheet of rain accompanied by lightning. Although there were no injuries or major damages in Henderson, lightning split an umbrella tree at the Bud Feigley home, 442 National Street, and ignited a power pole at 70 Magnesium Street. Damage to lawns also was reported.

Boulder City, like some areas within the City limits of Las Vegas, remained undampened while the storm danced around them.

North Las Vegas reported no accidents or injuries and only a quiet, "good" rain. The area to the west of the City also received heavy rainfall, it was reported.

Las Vegas Sun, August 22, 1961, #62, Volume XII

Heavy rains and winds up to 48 miles an hour whipped through the Vegas area Monday night (August 21), causing a brief power outage on the Strip.

A tree at Las Vegas High School was knocked down, and the roof of Sears Roebuck and Company downtown, was damaged.

McCarran Field had to use emergency power because of the storm. Lights were knocked out for a period from San Francisco Street to the Thunderbird Hotel. The front lights on the Sahara

Hotel were also knocked out.

Las Vegas Sun, August 30, 1961, #70, Volume XII

Heavy torrents of rain and hail swept through Las Vegas Tuesday night (August 29), pounding the entire area and causing power outages and entire residential sections to be inundated with water in the eastern area.

A number of trailer residents were reported to be evacuating their trailers until the rains subsided and the Sheriff's Jeep Posse was called to assist the evacuation.

Lightning knocked down several power lines. Power was completely cut off for a period at the new County Barn on Nellis Boulevard near the Boulder Highway.

The entire Trailer Estates area north of College Avenue and east of Nellis Boulevard was flooded. Among trailers flooded was the residence of Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Stump, 2260 Glenwood Lane.

A rash of traffic accidents occurred earlier in the afternoon, shortly after the rains first started. The storm started in the afternoon, subsided for a while and then resumed with much greater force early in the evening.

The area around the 2100 block of Ballard Street was filled with water, police reported. College Avenue was flooded, as was a good portion of the College Park residential area. Many streets were flooded out.

The power company reported a number of power outages "all over town." All of the Strip hotels at one time or another

during the night used auxiliary power. Power lines were down at St. Louis Avenue and Patrick Street, but were repaired.

The eastern part of Las Vegas was hit hard, as was the Bonanza Road area. Chairs and benches at the Paradise Valley Golf Course were blown away, and a trailer was turned over. Wires were down at Pecos and Patrick Streets, the Sheriff's Office reported.

In Paradise Valley, at least two trailers were turned over, one of which was owned by Norman Kaye, local entertainer and real estate man. Parts of Sunset Road in Paradise Valley were washed out and impassable.

A photograph of this flood was on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of a flooded trailer in the Trailer Estates area.

Las Vegas Sun, August 31, 1961, #71, Volume XII

(This information is a supplement to the flood of August 29, page 92).

Heaviest damage was in the County area to the east and north of Las Vegas. County Road Superintendent Press Lamb said there was at least $25,000 damage to the public roads and county property. He said there was also extensive damage to private property, mainly in the Meikle Manor and Trailer Estates section Many homes in these areas were damaged by water.

Damage to City property was estimated at $5,000 by Victor B. Uehling, Deputy Director of Public Works. He said he could make no estimate of the damage to private property in Las Vegas.

"Most of the public damage was done to the effluent ditch

at the City's sewage disposal plant near the Vegas Wash. Parts of the ditch's banks were washed away," Uehling said.

Much debris was strewn over city streets in various parts of Las Vegas and had to be cleared away, he added. Uehling said water flowed over curbs, washing away fill and is necessitating regrading especially in the eastern part of town.

Las Vegas Sun, September 18, 1961, #89, Volume 12

A 25-year-old Nevada Power Company lineman was electrocuted Sunday (September 17) as an aftermath of the sudden storm that ravaged the Las Vegas area Saturday night (September 16) and caused the near-death of another power company man.

Billy Faulkner of 11 Arizona Way, Henderson, died at 9:25 Sunday night in Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital, where he had been taken after suffering third-degree burns through his gloves and trousers from a live wire while on repair duty.

Don Fabbi, 27-year-old power company employee who suffered widespread third-degree burns when a radio tower collapsed on the building in which he was working during fierce gusts Saturday, still was reported in critical condition in the County Hospital.

Meanwhile, Las Vegans surveyed a debris-littered town and a half-million dollars property damage Sunday, following the savage storm with high "tornado-like" winds and huge hailstones that racked up the community from one end to the other.

The Strip was especially hard-hit by the sudden fury of

the storm, which blasted down virtually all of the big signs in the resort area and tore part of the roof off the Dunes Hotel.

Lamb Boulevard was washed out in places by the deluge accompanying the winds and hail, but, U. S. Highway 91 South was okay and power lines torn down near the Tropicana Hotel were up again Sunday, according to Deputy Russ Anderson of the Clark County Sheriff's Department.

A 138,000 volt line serving Mercury and Jackass Flats was out. Power Company officials said a 69,000 volt line was put in as an emergency measure.

The storm also knocked a portion of the roof off the Jackpot Motel at Second Street and Wyoming Avenue.

North Las Vegas was also hit hard. The entire old town section of the community was darkened from the time the storm hit until power was restored at 3:30 A. M. Sunday. Casinos and clubs along Main Street were blacked out.

Also knocked out was power in residential areas between Five Points and College Avenue and from Main Street to the railroad tracks. Power was off Sunday night on the west side of the Strip from the Dunes Hotel to the Hacienda Hotel. Power was also knocked off in the area bounded by Bonanza Road, Highland Avenue, Tonopah Avenue, and Charleston Boulevard. Crews from California, Boulder City and other areas were helping the power company to restore power in the Las Vegas area Sunday night. Service was expected to be back to normal by Tuesday.

Dozens of homes and businesses in Las Vegas had roofs ripped off and/or windows broken by the winds which had gusts up to an estimated 80 mph and hailstones in some cases as big as golf balls. Trees were torn down or had branches broken off all over town and hail smashed windows of autos, including police cars.

Doors were torn off Devine Storage and Moving Service at 418 West Mesquite, according to City Polic Sgt. Paul Deweert.

> Twelve photographs of the damage done by this storm were in this edition of the Sun on pages 1, 2, 10 and 12. Pictures numbered 1, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 were of signs that had been damaged on the Strip. Pictures numbered 2 and 6 were of the damage done at the Stardust Drive-In Theatre. Pictures numbered 4 and 5 were of uprooted trees. Picture number 11 was of a damaged sign at 721 South Main Street, and picture number 12 was of an overturned trailer near the Dunes Hotel.

Las Vegas Sun, March 10, 1962, #240, Volume XII

Near tornadic winds accompanied by rain and snow whirled through southern Nevada on Friday (March 9) as one of the fiercest storms of the year damaged buildings, snarled traffic, downed power lines and curtailed Atomic Energy Commission operations for a time at Yucca Flats and Mercury.

A spokesman from the Atomic Energy Commission office in Las Vegas said there was no real work stoppage at the test site, however, workers driving to their jobs were delayed by the snow and winds, and for a short period of time, when the storm was at its peak, work was slowed considerably. The spokesman said no roads in the area were closed, but traffic moved at a snail's pace.

The high winds blew off the roofs of two houses at 2604 Webster Street and 2628 Carroll Street in North Las Vegas.

The Nevada Highway Patrol said late Friday afternoon, that all roads were open and no serious accidents were reported. Blowing dust in the Jean area had traffic at a mean-standstill for a time, with heavy snow falling on the mountain pass south of the State line. To the north, heavy snow was reported between Beatty and Tonopah, but the road was never closed.

Snow was reported in Las Vegas and surrounding areas in the valley. Snowflakes, mixed with rain, were reported on the Strip, San Francisco Avenue, in downtown Las Vegas, and in North Las Vegas. There was no snow at Whitney according to a spokesman for the Nevada Power Company. A truck driver for the power cmpany reported heavy snow at Indian Springs. He said he couldn't see the highway.

The near 60 mile per hour winds caused the Nevada Power Company some trouble especially in North Las Vegas where numerous power lines had fallen.

A photograph of some damage done by this storm was on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of damage done to the roof of the home at 2616 Daly Street.

Las Vegas Sun, September 5, 1963, #344, Volume XIII

A sudden thunderstorm hit the Las Vegas area Wednesday afternoon (September 4), flooding streets and slowing traffic throughout the City.

Traffic in one area was blocked for about 20 minutes when

the Bonanza underpass was closed by the deluge. Live power lines were reported down in the Huntridge area.

At 5 P. M., the precipitation had reached .80 of an inch. The U. S. Weather Bureau at McCarran Field reported that it was the heaviest rain for a 24-hour period since November 6, 1960, when .96 was recorded.

Las Vegas Sun, September 6, 1963, #345, Volume XIII

> A photograph of the flood conditions caused by the thunderstorm of Wednesday, September 4, was on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of the water running across the intersection of Sahara Avenue and Jones Boulevard.

Las Vegas Sun, March 12, 1965, #252, Volume XV

Up until 4:00 P. M. Thursday, March 11, .57 of an inch of rain fell on the Las Vegas Valley. A few accidents were reported, but none of these resulted in any serious injuries. Other than these accidents, no other damage was reported.

> A photograph of this storm was on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of water on Charleston Boulevard.

Las Vegas Sun, April 4, 1965, #275, Volume XV

A mass of thunderclouds were expected to hit Las Vegas from the southeast, Sunday, April 4, stretching a rainy spell into its fourth consecutive day.

More than 40 auto accidents - the bulk of them helped by rain slicked roads - were reported Saturday (April 3) in Clark County, where an inch of rain had fallen during the week.

Most of the accidents involved no injuries, but a half-dozen people were treated at hospitals after car crashes. All

the crash victims were released after treatment.

Flooding posed a hazard to traffic along Nellis Boulevard for about a half-mile on both sides of its intersection with East Charleston Boulevard. The Clark County Sheriff's Department reported the water was over a foot deep in spots on Nellis.

A spokesman for the Nevada Power Company said the rain and wind had brought only minor damage to lines with only one short circuit lasting more than a few moments. The power failure was reported when a line shorted near Pecos Road and the Salt Lake Highway. The downed line was almost immediately repaired, however.

Las Vegas Sun, April 7, 1965, #278, Volume XV

Rains that began on April 1, dumped 2.41 inches of moisture over the Las Vegas Valley in five days.

In the City, most of the rain damage was centered in the northeastern section where soft dirt shoulders were washed away and there were some reports of driveways destroyed. Harold Nicholson, City Field Engineer, said repair costs would be "mild."

No specific damage was reported for the area surrounding Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Sun, April 9, 1965, #280, Volume XV

The measure of rain which fell on the Las Vegas area Thursday, April 8, was .6 of an inch which brought the total moisture

for the year to 2.5 inches.

The rain kept City and County road repair crews busy Thursday, as rushing water in some areas washed out roadbeds causing some minor cave-ins where storm channels have not been installed, according to county road officials.

No specific damage was reported in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Sun, July 19, 1965, #19, Volume XVI

A sudden afternoon thundershower raised a little bit of havoc in the Las Vegas area, Sunday afternoon (July 18), darkening several Strip hotels and bringing on a rash of minor traffic accidents.

In Las Vegas proper it was much the same story as the unannounced downpour made streets slick and obscured vision. Police said, "In all, there were six accidents within a few minutes of each other. Two mixups occurred at the intersection of Las Vegas Boulevard South and Charleston Boulevard, nearly simultaneously." In all, however, no injuries to occupants were reported in any of the collisions.

At Lake Mead, a sudden deluge, accompanied by winds up to 50 miles per hour ripped a portion of the roof off the Marina and toppled five light standards, the Ranger Station at Boulder Beach reported.

The Nevada Power Company reported a 20 minute power outage in the Strip area Sunday afternoon (July 18) from Flamingo to Desert Inn Road. The blackout darkened casinos at the Flamingo, Sands and Desert Inn Hotels in addition to other businesses in

the immediate area, officials said.

Las Vegas Sun, July 31, 1966, #30, Volume XVII

A severe thundershower passed through Las Vegas Monday (July 30) causing a flurry of multiple car smash-ups, flooding, and widespread power failures.

A power outage was reported in a wide area bounded by Maryland Parkway and Boulder Highway and Sahara Avenue to the City of Henderson. Some power lines were reported down and traffic signals were not working.

Hip deep water piled up on Nellis Boulevard, north of Lake Mead and along scattered sections of Paradise Road.

A stop sign was knocked down by lightning at Wilber and Cambridge Streets and high winds carried huge piles of debris from the warehouse section south of Sahara Avenue onto lawns along Milo Way.

Two photographs of flood damage caused by this storm were on page 1 and 3 respectively of this edition of the Sun. The first picture was of water covering an unidentified Las Vegas Street. The second picture was also of water covering an unidentified Las Vegas Street.

Las Vegas Sun, September 19, 1966, #80, Volume XVII

There was darkness at noon in Las Vegas and surrounding areas Sunday (September 18) when heavy rains and high winds ripped through town, causing extensive damage and injuring several people.

Traveling in a northeasterly direction, the unexpected storm skipped its way across town, damaging whole blocks and leaving others virtually untouched. Rain poured in some areas,

others reported it barely wet the ground.

Hardest hit by the sudden storm were three trailer parks to the east of town. Residents of Riviera Vegas Mobile Home Park for adults and the adjoining family park on Palm Avenue were literally picking up the pieces of two trailers which were "disintegrated" in the wind.

Whispering Sands Trailer Park, directly across the street, reported one tree felled.

Miracle Mile Trailer Park on Boulder Highway reported two trailers blown over, a roof blown away and a car demolished.

Firemen worked for several hours to install temporary tarpaulin roofing on houses in the 2800 block of Phoenix Street in Francisco Park, one of the most extensively damaged residential areas.

Nevada Power Company tripled its repair crew as reports of felled structures and power outages poured in from various parts of town. Power was reported out in wide areas for as much as an hour. Four crews were set to work the night through repairing seven power poles in a row, toppled on Flamingo Road, east of Maryland Parkway. A spokesman described the outages as "minimal" for the amount of damage.

Traffic accidents in the City and County continued to mount as flooding developed and pavement remained wet. The Las Vegas Police Department reported 10 auto accidents, three with injuries, and the Highway Patrol reported four, three with injuries. One collision, at East Charleston and Mojave involved

three cars.

Lightning struck a power pole in Henderson and two cars collided at Boulder Highway and Lake Mead Boulevard, when a power failure shorted the signal light. Heavy hail was reported.

The Weather Bureau at McCarran Field reported twelve hundredths of an inch of rain and wind up to 35 miles an hour.

Four photographs of damage done by this storm were on pages 1 and 3 of this edition of the Sun. The first picture was of one of the demolished trailers in eastern Las Vegas. Pictures numbers 2 and 4 were of damaged telephone poles, and picture number 3 was of the damage done to the roof of the house on 3142 Vegas Valley Drive.

Las Vegas Sun, June 20, 1967, #352, Volume XVII

Las Vegas was turned into a "Little Venice" Monday (June 19), when a cloud burst struck, causing a flash flood that stranded shoppers and motorists by the thousands and claimed the life of an 11 year-old boy.

When asked how the flood situation was, Highway Department District Engineer Jack Parvin remarked, "We have a lot of flooding and the reports are just coming in. All normal channels are flowing and this includes the Flamingo Wash area. We've got a small river around the Bonanza Road and Strip area and at Five Points."

Power poles were toppled by the winds and lightning and temporary outages were reported throughout the day. The West Charleston area reported a 34-minute power outage. Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital, located in the same area, said the

outage had not affected facilities, but its auxiliary power units were in readiness.

Employees at Caesar's Palace were ordered to move their cars when flood waters started overflowing a nearby drainage ditch. Elsewhere on the Strip, parking lots were reported flooded within minutes.

> Six photographs of this flash flood were on pages 1 and 6 of this edition of the Sun. The first three pictures were of water pouring into the Charleston Underpass and of water covering streets in Las Vegas. Picture number four was of some children playing in the water in front of the City Library. The fifth picture was of the attempts to revive the boy who drowned while playing in the water. The sixth picture was of Doug Ponn who was trying to keep the drains open at the Charleston Underpass.

Las Vegas Sun, June 21, 1967, #353, Volume XVII

More than 100 crewmen worked on Clark County roads and streets Tuesday (June 20), mopping up mud and debris churned up by a sudden storm on Monday (June 19). "We came out of it very well," said Richard Sauer, Director of Public Works for the City of Las Vegas. Sauer said a 30-foot long section of Bonanza Road was washed out near Vegas Wash, but that traffic was flowing normally in that area.

The Director of County Public Works, George Monahan, said 50 men had been cleaning up county roads. He said most of the work entailed filling in washed-out road shoulders and cleaning up mud and debris.

Las Vegas Sun, July 16, 1967, #13, Volume XVIII

A wall of water triggered by a heavy rain and hail

cascaded down Mt. Charleston Saturday morning (July 15), gouging out large chunks of pavement and reportedly trapping several motorists.

Both the Sheriff's Office and the Highway Patrol immediately closed the area to motorists, establishing roadblocks at the Tonopah Highway and State Routes 32 and 52. Although the Sheriff's Office later reported the Lee Canyon and Deer Creek Roads open, they dispatched several four-wheel-drive units to the area to assist motorists and check road conditions.

While telephone lines to the U. S. Forest Service Station in the area were down, Deputy Calvin Ruesch of the Sheriff's Mt. Charleston Sub-station reported heavy rain and one and one-half inches of hail had fallen in a short time Saturday morning. According to Ruesch, the deluge which started in the Kyle Canyon area around 8:00 A. M. nearly trapped the deputy in the Deer Creek area. While damage in the Kyle Canyon area was light and residents unharmed, severe road damage was reported further down the road and especially in the Lees Canyon area.

Las Vegas Sun, August 7, 1967, #34, Volume XVIII

A sudden rainstorm hit the Las Vegas area on Monday, August 7. It closed underpasses, flooded streets, and created a muddy, rockstrewn havoc on a citywide basis.

A capsule sketch of the initial flood damage from the Las Vegas Police Department revealed "...Flooding all over with 14th and 25th Streets caved in and practically impassable.

Bonanza Road, presently under construction, and 14th Street are loaded with boulders and motorists are mired down and stalled all over the place."

Across the City, the Nevada Highway Patrol reported flooding, but no accidents and little property damage. Much of the area covered by the patrol was however, reported under water with heavy flooding expected.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office reported Nellis Boulevard, near Charleston Boulevard, impassable for a while, but rapidly clearing.

The biggest problem faced North Las Vegas, which held its breath waiting for the flood waters to pour through its area. One police officer said, "Bonanza is really running and when that water hits north of town, they'll really have their hands full." The Skyview Trailer Park in North Las Vegas already reported being flooded out, with water bumper deep around cars and running into trailer houses. Damages were said to be extensive.

With the first downpour, the Charleston-Main underpass began flooding and was immediately barricaded by police and Highway Department workers.

> Three photographs of the results of this storm were on page 1 and 6 of this edition of the Sun. The first picture was of children playing in the water near one of the underpasses. The second was of a truck plowing through water on a downtown street. The third picture (page 6) was of an employee of the Highway Department emptying one of his boots of water.

Las Vegas Sun, August 9, 1967, #36, Volume XVIII

Las Vegas was hit by two storms Tuesday night (August 8) which bore in from the south and covered a 50-square-mile area.

Damage was estimated in the hundreds of thousands of dollars after the storms passed, at 8:00 P. M. No section of the City escaped the powerful deluge and low lying areas were flooded for miles in hip-deep water.

The Showboat Hotel on Boulder Highway was forced to close its casino, restaurant and showroom when muddy floodwaters invaded through the kitchen doors, passed clear through the large building, and exited through the front doors.

Sunrise Hospital in Paradise Valley switched to auxiliary power units when the electricity failed. The emergency room was crowded with traffic victims and persons cut by flying glass when gale-force winds ripped out windows.

At Caesar's Palace on the Strip, a casino boss said the water was deep enough in the front of the hotel to "swim in."

No drownings were reported in the City, but several persons, including children, had narrow escapes after being swept into streets that had become rampaging rivers. Many of the newly created rivers carried large boulders, gravel, and silt into residential and business districts.

Accompanied by lightning and thunder, the storms dumped about a half inch of rain on Las Vegas during the 40 minutes they took to pass through the bowl shape of Las Vegas Valley.

Traffic accidents soared as wet brakes failed to stop cars. No major crashes were reported, but scores of persons were treated in hospital emergency rooms for cuts and bruises in minor accidents throughout the Las Vegas area.

At the Manor House Colonial Furniture Store, 1616 East Lake Mead Boulevard lightning struck an air conditioning unit, knocking it from the roof. Heavy flooding was reported inside the building. Store officials said damage would run into several thousand dollars.

Civic Center Drive and Lake Mead Boulevard were under two feet of water as were Paradise and Flamingo Roads, Desert Inn and Maryland Parkway, and most of Boulder Highway from Henderson to Fremont Street.

Power outages were reported throughout the City for several hours. "This is the worst storm we've had this year as far as the Nevada Power Company is concerned," said a dog-tired repair chief. All extra crews were called back to work to restore power and lights. Most were on the job throughout the night.

Television stations in Las Vegas were off the air intermittently due to power failure and both newspapers reported power outages for short periods. KSHO (Channel 13) was off the air two hours.

Along the 600 and 700 blocks of North 14th Street, a heavy retaining wall crumbled under the strain of tons of water and wet sand, sending landslides into back yards. At 15th and

Sahara water was reported over the curbs and creeping into houses.

Strangely, Mount Charleston reported no Canyon flooding, passable road conditions and only minor rainfall.

> Three photographs of the results of this storm were on pages 1 and 2 of this edition of the Sun. The first picture was of a busy intersection in Las Vegas which was covered by water. The second was of a stalled car on Bonanza and 15th Streets. The third picture was a street which was covered with water somewhere in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Sun, August 10, 1967, #37, Volume XVIII

Damage estimates from Tuesday, (August 8), rainstorm and flood soared into the millions of dollars as Las Vegans dug out from what most officials agreed was the hardest hitting storm so far that year.

Hundreds of homes and apartments in low-lying areas, especially in eastern portions of the City, were left with layers of silt and mud when flood waters receded.

In addition to homes and garages, many cars were inundated while parked on streets that became rapid-flow spillways at the height of the storm during early evening hours.

Victor Uehling, deputy director of public works in Las Vegas, said the entire eastern portion of the City, from Oakey to Bonanza Road, was especially hard hit because of downhill terrain.

Owens Avenue east of Pecos Road, and a small section of Lamb Boulevard, between Owens and Bonanza, was washed out, Uehling reported.

All traffic signals in the City malfunctioned at one time or another during the storm, Uehling said, adding that five separate traffic signal circuits were still out Wednesday afternoon (August 9).

Gordon Brockway, Deputy County Engineer, reported half of Sahara Avenue washed out for approximately 100 feet at Sand Hill Road. He also said County crews were scraping piled up debris and mud from many intersections, especially along Sahara, Paradise Road and Maryland Parkway.

Winterwood Golf Course on Lamb Boulevard was reported inundated with mud and debris. Two normally dry washes through the 18-hole course overflowed their banks and spread thick layers of silt throughout the surrounding area, officials said.

Four photographs of some damage done by this flash flood were on pages 1, 2, 5 and 6 of this edition of the Sun. The first picture was of a stalled car on Nellis Boulevard and Kell Lane. The second was of the clean-up operation inside the Showboat Hotel. The third was of the Winterwood Golf Course which was partially covered with water and the fourth picture was of a demolished gas station at Paradise and Twain.

Las Vegas Sun, August 20, 1967, #47, Volume XVIII

A violent hail and rain storm caused flash flooding that carried tons of rock and gravel onto U. S. Highway 95, between Las Vegas and Searchlight Saturday (August 19), forcing the highway to close four hours beginning at 5:30 P. M.

Winds during the freak storm, 15 miles north of Searchlight, reached gale force. Hailstones the size of half-dollars fell and rainfall measured close to an inch in 22 minutes as the

storm travelled toward the McCullough Mountains west of the highway and dissipated.

Emergency highway crews, stationed in Searchlight, were called to remove large boulders, gravel and sand washed onto the highway from higher ground.

Las Vegas Sun, September 6, 1967, #44, Volume XVIII

State Highway Department crews worked overtime Tuesday (September 5), cleaning and repairing roads damaged by flooding in Southern Nevada.

Many Las Vegans stopped over in Lathrop Wells and Beatty when flood waters ripped chunks out of the Tonopah Highway, late Monday (September 4).

Several roads were closed, but there were no reports of property damage or missing cars. Remaining pools of water were expected to be dried out by sunshine.

Storm-bred flood waters washed out Mt. Charleston Road, State Route 39, in two places according to Beryl Totman, Maintenance Superintendent. One 300-foot section of pavement was torn out and deep cuts along the road were filled with debris.

State Route 16, south of Johnnie toward Pahrump, was washed out for about 100 feet.

The heavy downpour sent four feet of water swirling across the Tonopah Highway near Cactus Springs, about 60 miles north of Las Vegas.

Paradise Road was also awash as water from mountain storms swept toward Las Vegas. Water gushed across the road between

Flamingo and Tropicana Roads.

The Clark County Road Department reported extensive damage on Blue Diamond Road. The road was described as barely passable in spots.

Las Vegas Sun, September 7, 1967, #65, Volume XVIII

A powerful thunderstorm belted the Strip, downtown, Charleston Heights and Red Rock on Wednesday, September 6.

Winds of 35 miles per hour preceded the rain and raised clouds of dust that caused visibility blackouts over large areas. Two minor traffic accidents were reported on the Strip caused by dust followed by rain which slicked the street.

The storm was created locally by hot air rising, cooling, and condensing its moisture into rain. The storm missed scattered portions of the Las Vegas Valley, particularly around East Las Vegas; Henderson and Boulder City reported no rain at all. The storm moved north to south, across the extreme western portion of the City and the Spring Mountain Range. It dissipated north of Las Vegas, almost as quickly as it came up. The deluge fell on the Red Rock area for one hour and forty minutes.

The Weather Bureau at McCarran recorded three hundredths of an inch of rain, but said the downpour was much heavier in Charleston Heights and the desert beyond.

Heavy runoff from upper areas began immediately and created rushing rivers along such major east-west thoroughfares as Charleston, Oakey, Sahara and Flamingo Roads.

Las Vegas Police Department reported railroad underpasses and low-lying street intersections clear with no flooding anywhere with the exception of Bromley and Michael Way where a hip-deep lake was created by runoff after the rains had stopped. The Clark County Sheriff's Office also said it had no reports of damage or flooding with the exception of Flamingo Road, which was blocked off and closed between the Strip and Paradise Road for a brief period after the storm abated because of flooding.

Las Vegas Sun, July 30, 1968, #30, Volume XIX

While Monday's (July 29) rainfall only measured .08 inch at McCarran Airport, it briefly turned several City and County roads into streams - not to mention a flash flood at Mt. Charleston.

While minor flooding was reported at Maryland Parkway and Desert Inn Road, the Sheriff's Office said the run-off was rapid and the area passable. Tropicana Road also experienced some flooding as deputies were handling calls of children swimming in ditches and deep water.

On Mt. Charleston, a downpour started around 9:30 A. M., and continued through the afternoon, slacking off around 3:00 P. M., according to deputies. Although a flash flood knocked out the road to the Mary Jane Falls Campground, all other Mt. Charleston roads were reported in good condition.

In Las Vegas, Highland Avenue, both at Lake Mead Boulevard and Industrial Road, turned into a knee or fender deep pond.

Three other City areas covered by water were Charleston and Decatur Boulevards and Washington Avenue.

Both the Las Vegas Police Department and Nevada Highway Patrol say no flood damage calls were received.

A photograph of the result of this storm was on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of the water which covered a portion of Industrial Road.

Las Vegas Sun, January 25, 1969

Rainstorms pounding Southern Nevada yesterday washed out roads and buried several vehicles in desert mud sliding down from the mountains.

No fatalities were reported, but area hospitals treated scores of persons for injuries suffered in more than 100 traffic accidents since the storm arrived Friday.

Law enforcement officials said most accidents were "fender benders."

U. S. 95 North was closed near Lathrop Wells. Nevada Highway patrolmen said six feet of water covered a mile or more of washed out roadway in the area.

The highway leading to the Mount Charleston resort area 45 miles northwest of here was washed out at various points. The Weather Bureau reported 18 inches of snow on Mt. Charleston and more falling.

A Clark County sheriff's deputy was hospitalized when a wave of water swept his vehicle off the Charleston Road and the car overturned.

Seventeen people, including eight Boy Scouts, were rescued by helicopters during the day.

Sheriff's deputies said several cars were buried in mud and water, but the occupants escaped and were later rescued.

The Boy Scouts were in Red Rock Canyon when roads washed away. Helicopters from Hughes Tool Company rescued motorists stranded on mud islands surrounded by swirling brown waters. "The flood waters generally are following the channels of natural desert washes, which in many cases cross secondary roads in the county," explained Sheriff's deputies.

Some intersections east of the glittering Strip hotels were closed along Flamingo Road, Paradise Valley Road, Nellis Boulevard, and Tropicana Avenue.

Some residential streets were flooded from curb to curb. Winterwood residents reported a rowboat floating down a street.

Nellis Air Force Base dispatched men and equipment to the Winterwood section to sandbag the area against rampaging flood waters.

Nevada Highway Department crews stood by to set up barricades on flooded streets. A spokesman said 30 men were ready to warn motorists of washouts.

Most roads leading out of Las Vegas into California, Arizona and Utah were open. However, chains were required at Flagstaff, Arizona, on U. S. 66 and mud slides snarled traffic near Cedar City, Utah.

The Weather Bureau said rain and winds are expected to move out of Southern Nevada late tonight. The storm is part

of a huge low pressure system engulfing Southern California and moving inland.

Since the rain began, McCarran Airport measured .64 of an inch. Air traffic is moving in and out of the area as usual with a ceiling of 4,000 feet.

Forecasts call for a quarter to half inch more rain before the storm clears out. January rains have dumped 1.3 inches in Las Vegas, almost three times more than normal rainfall for the month.

Las Vegas Sun, June 18, 1969, #353, Volume XIX

A photograph of what had happened on Mojave Road after a heavy rainstorm was on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of the water covering Mojave Road.

Las Vegas Sun, September 13, 1969, #75, Volume XX

Heavy rains pushed by Pacific coast tropical storms hit Southern Nevada late Friday (September 12) and sent tons of water cascading down from the mountain ranges surrounding Las Vegas, instantly converting the south end of town including the Strip, into a jumble of water soaked vehicles, mud and people.

Conservative damage estimates were in excess of a quarter of a million dollars.

A second spillway to the north of Las Vegas also filled over flooding Decatur Avenue, Highland Avenue, and a number of freeway underpasses and literally making an island out of Western High School.

But by far the hardest hit area was property bordering the south spillway from Caesars Palace parking lot to the desert south of Koval Lane. The flooded area included Spring Mountain Road, Maryland Parkway, and south to Eastern Avenue.

Two major golf courses, the Sahara-Nevada Country Club and the County-owned Winterwood, were also hard hit with mud, water and debris.

Literally hundreds of vehicles suffered extensive water damage with many considered a total loss. More than a dozen automobiles were swept from the Caesars Palace parking lot into the spillway, under the bridge crossing the Strip, where they jammed up causing a crude dam that forced the water still higher. One vehicle was washed into a motel adjacent to the Flamingo Hotel.

Bob Perkins, Clark County road department superintendent, said he had his full crew on the job placing every available road barrier in suitable locations. Perkins said the road department was forced to close down Sahara Avenue, from Boulder Highway to Lamb Boulevard; Lamb Boulevard, from Sahara Avenue to East Charleston Boulevard, Eastern Avenue, Maryland Parkway, Highland Avenue, and Decatur Boulevard.

A rash of so-called fender-bender accidents kept local traffic diversions and the Nevada Highway Patrol busy, but no serious accidents were reported.

Three photographs of the results of this flash flood were on pages 1 and 6 of this edition of the Sun. The first

picture was of a stalled car in front of Western High School. The second was of water rushing under a bridge which crossed the Strip near Caesars Palace. The third picture was of a bulldozer attempting to push stranded automobiles out of the way of still rising water.

Las Vegas Sun, August 5, 1970, #36, Volume XXI

A 12-hour deluge dumped nearly an inch of rain on Las Vegas Tuesday (August 4), flooding intersections and making some outlying highways impassable.

Nearly two feet of rain water collected in many City streets slowing traffic to a near halt. The U. S. Weather Bureau reported .89 inch of rain had fallen by noon Tuesday.

By 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, the City's overworked drainage system was beginning to catch up with the near flood conditions and traffic was returning to normal.

Nevada Highway Patrol officials reported the road to Searchlight, Nevada, was "extremely dangerous." The road reopened at 11:00 A.M. after being blocked for nearly 12 hours.

Several Clark County streets suffered heavily during the morning rains. The intersections at Desert Inn and Eastern, Pecos and Owens, Nellis and Munson and Patrick and Bruce were all flooded, deputies said.

A photograph of a result of this heavy rain was on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of the water covering the intersection of Alta and Shadow Lanes.

Las Vegas Sun, August 15, 1970, #46, Volume XXI

Electrical fires sparkled around Las Vegas and envi-

rons Friday night (August 14) as an extensive storm front pushed across southern Nevada, dropping power lines and trees and wreaking havoc with traffic in many areas.

Heavy rains moving in behind the gale-like winds forced closure of U. S. Highway 95, just south of Indian Springs, as over two feet of water washed over the road.

There was no assessment of damage to the roadway or other facilities in the Indian Springs area north of Las Vegas. A sheriff's department spokesman said all traffic had been halted and there were no known casualties from the heavy runoff.

The U. S. Weather Department reported the winds peaked at 58 miles per hour between 8:40 and 8:55 P.M. at their McCarran Field Station.

As many as 15 to 20 power lines were reported down at one time in Las Vegas as the storm headed into its second hour. Several electrical fires from downed and crossed wires were reported, as well as some transformers burning out. All fire departments in the area reported answering numerous such calls, but there were no major fires.

Major power outages were reported along the east side at the Tropicana Shopping Center, numerous traffic lights were out and traffic snarled in the area. Live power lines were reported flying loose in the wind along Paradise Road. Lights from Flamingo to Paradise were out.

North Las Vegas reported "a lot of wires and trees down," but no injuries or extensive damage.

Henderson reported lights out and alarms going off; and relayed information that travel on the Boulder Highway was extremely hazardous with a lot of dust and debris choking the roadway near Pittman.

The storm also brushed Boulder City, but there was no damage reported there.

Las Vegas Sun, August 27, 1970, #58, Volume XXI

Numerous brief thundershowers dumped nearly an inch of rain on Las Vegas Wednesday, August 26, flooding intersections and causing momentary power and phone outages.

The rainstorm drenched some portions of the City and left others with parts completely dry. The U. S. Weather Bureau Station at McCarran Airport recorded zero rainfall at 5:00 P. M. but tourists and locals alike were drenched along the Strip and in Casino Center.

Local lawmen reported several intersections in the County were flooded, including Tropicana Avenue at Paradise Road and Mojave Avenue, at Desert Inn Road. Traffic on Charleston Boulevard and Bonanza Road was slowed to a near standstill as autos inched through flooded drainage canals.

Several power outages were reported throughout the County, but they were restored within minutes.

A photograph of a result of this storm was on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of the flooded 5-point intersection on South Main Street.

Las Vegas Sun, August 10, 1971, #41, Volume XXII

More than 5,000 City street lights were knocked out and

at least 33 traffic signals were affected by the electrical storm which hit Las Vegas Sunday night, August 8.

City Traffic Engineer Al Bossi said that the major damage to the traffic signal system came when the master traffic computer control was inundated by water and "shorted out." Located at the site of the construction of the new city hall at Stewart and Las Vegas Boulevard North, the computer system was damaged when dirt piled at the construction site funneled the water into it.

No other damage was reported.

Las Vegas Sun, August 15, 1971, #46, Volume XXII

A sudden thundershower late Saturday afternoon poured itself out on the lower slopes of Mt. Charleston, flooding roads in the western part of the Las Vegas area and temporarily isolating the Blue Diamond community.

Las Vegas itself was hit only in isolated areas, high winds caused at least one injury and caused a cancellation of a play day at the North Las Vegas Horseman's Park Arena.

While communities on Mt. Charleston were not themselves badly hit by the showers, Route 39 was covered with water and mud between Tonopah Highway and Kyle Canyon.

Blue Diamond was isolated for two to three hours after water filled the wash between the community and West Charleston; West Charleston was also covered between Blue Diamond and Las Vegas. Flooding was also reported on Cheyenne Road.

Since the U. S. Weather Bureau's observation stations weren't in areas particularly affected by the brief storm they were unable to say how much rain fell or how high winds got. The highest they recorded at McCarran Field were 30 mile per hour gusts.

Las Vegas Sun, August 13, 1972, #44, Volume XXIII

Thunderstorms buffeted the Las Vegas area Friday night and Thursday afternoon (August 10 and 11), wreaking the usual havoc of flooded streets and interrupted power service.

Flooding occurred Friday night at the intersection of Convention Center Drive and Paradise Avenue, and 25th Street and Stewart, but the intersections were not put out of service.

Flooding on Thursday affected Blue Diamond, Pahrump, Mount Charleston and Boulder Highway, between Tropicana Avenue and Nellis Boulevard.

Hailstones three quarters of an inch in diameter were observed in East Las Vegas and hail was also reported in Sunrise Manor and Paradise Valley. Scattered rainshowers dotted the Las Vegas Valley, with Sunrise Manor reporting .82 inch of precipitation and East Las Vegas reporting .51 inch. The Weather Bureau at McCarran International Airport, which recorded .21 inch of rainfall early Saturday morning, was apparently bypassed by the afternoon shower.

Power failures plagued various areas of the City, Friday and Saturday including the vicinity of Desert Inn Road and Marlyand Parkway and a neighborhood on East Charleston Boulevard.

However, they were generally short lived, and a Nevada Power Company spokesman indicated that there was little difficulty encountered in restoring service.

A photograph of a result of this storm was on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of two people riding bicycles through a large pond of water.

Las Vegas Sun, August 14, 1972, #45, Volume XXIII

A wide-range storm that dumped heavy rain from Mexico to Death Valley and across the entire Mojave Desert, struck Las Vegas with a one-two punch that caused major flooding, road washout and a high number of traffic accidents including one fatality.

More than a half-inch of rain fell in Las Vegas between midnight Saturday (August 13) and midnight Sunday (August 14), ending a six-month drought.

Caused by the desert's inability to absorb water, rain that had fallen in the surrounding mountains flowed in sheets down slopes into the City and lay in pools as much as 10 feet deep in the lowest parts of the Las Vegas Valley.

Struck hardest was the valley's east portion at the foot of Sunrise Mountain. Nellis Boulevard between Bonanza and Sahara was closed as was Charleston Boulevard between Nellis and Lamb. Portions of many roadways in the east section of Las Vegas were undercut by running waters that resulted in collapse of the pavement. Deep lakes stood along Pecos Road.

The heavy weekend flow of tourists returning to Los Angeles from Las Vegas by car, was abruptly stopped at 4:00 P. M.

Sunday when flooding washed out a portion of Interstate 15 at Alton Road in California, between Baker and Barstow. Flood waters moving across and under the four-lane divided freeway ripped out large sections of pavement and made others unstable. Traffic into California was turned back to Las Vegas at the State border, while cars heading north were stopped in Barstow.

California state highway crews were on the scene immediately to stop further flooding and repair damage.

Tonopah Highway north of Las Vegas was closed to all traffic during afternoon hours while sheet runoff flowed out of the Spring Mountains and crossed the highway in a strong current. Flooding was reported along U. S. Highway 95 between Searchlight and Needles, California, where 12 to 18 inches of water stood on the desert highway.

Switchboards at law enforcement agencies were swamped with calls reporting scores of traffic accidents. The rain claimed at least one life in a grinding head-on collision between two sedans on East Lake Mead Boulevard near Pecos Road at 4:30 P. M. Four persons were injured, two critically.

A major downpour drenched Las Vegas at 5:30 A. M. Sunday (August 13) and again during mid-afternoon. Despite scattered periods of sunshine, water flowed steadily into the City in normally dry stream beds and in sheets from the surrounding mountains.

Las Vegas Sun, March 13, 1973, #256, Volume XXIII

On Monday, March 12, 1973, became the second wettest year

in Las Vegas history with 3.13 inches of precipitation.

While the rain was falling in Las Vegas, Mt. Charleston was having a heavy snowstorm. The U. S. Forest Service said that in a 24-hour period preceding 3:00 P. M. Monday, more than 14.5 inches of new snow was recorded at Mt. Charleston.

The Clark County Sheriff's Department reported much flooding and a major obstacle at Bonanza Underpass.

A photograph of a result of the heavy rain is on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The picture was of the water covering a portion of Maryland Parkway near Vegas Valley Drive.

Las Vegas Sun, June 1, 1973, #336, Volume XXIV

Flash floodings occurred in many areas as the Weather Service recorded unofficially more than 2 inches of rain in the north east section of Clark County. According to a spokesman, the unprecedented amount of rain was caused by clouds that generally move rapidly through the area, but this time they "hung around longer." The black, water-laden clouds moved rapidly into the City and in a short time, dumped hail and heavy showers furiously over the area. Within minutes, most areas of the County were enveloped in a water and wind holocaust that caused near-zero visibility, stalled vehicles, traffic accidents and numerous major floods.

The heavy rains caused havoc throughout the City. At the West Charleston underpass over eight feet of water covered cars stalled there. At the peak of the storm the Las Vegas Police Department recorded three or four times the normal amount of

traffic accidents. The Clark County Sheriff's Department and the City Police Department reported major flooding conditions at Sahara, near Nellis, Bonanza Road, Lamb Boulevard, East Charleston, Mojave Road, and a large portion of Boulder Highway. The major intersections of these roads were rendered impassable.

No cancellations or delays were reported by the Federal Aviation Administration at McCarran Airport, the section of town which received the least amount of rain.

The Sealy-Faberge Golf Classic at the Desert Inn Country Club was cancelled for the day, when a thick layer of hail covered the golf course giving it a winter look.

Some power outages were reported throughout Las Vegas Valley. One power line was downed at Bruce and Bonanza Road by hail and high winds.

Four photographs of the results of this flash flood were on page 1 and 4 of this edition of the Sun. The first picture was of an almost totally submerged car in the Charleston Underpass. The second picture was of a policeman preventing children from playing in a large pool of water. The third picture was of flood water over-flowing a street curb and the final picture was of a trash can floating down a flooded street.

Las Vegas Sun, August 21, 1973, #52, Volume XXV

The Las Vegas Wash Marina was severely damaged by a thunderstorm which struck the Lake Mead and Las Vegas area Monday night, August 20.

First reports from the Park Rangers indicated that the dock walkway was collapsed "like an accordian." Damage was

also reported at the Echo Bay Marina and the Callville Bay Marina.

Meanwhile in the Las Vegas area, downed wires, fallen trees and numerous "fender bender" type traffic accidents were caused by the storm.

No serious accidents were reported by local law enforcement agencies, but a spokesman for the Metropolitan Police Department said their units were very busy with minor accidents.

Motorists driving along Boulder Highway suddenly found themselves stuck in either a puddle or at least in a harrowing traffic jam.

The tower at McCarran International Airport reported all air traffic was leaving and arriving on time.

The Nevada Highway Patrol said they were very busy with minor traffic accidents but no serious problems.

A spokesman for Central Telephone Company said there was "surprisingly light damage" to any equipment and only scattered reports of disrupted phone service - mostly in the "457" exchange area.

Nevada Power Company was kept busy with downed wires and one power pole which, was struck by lightning.

Metropolitan police said a total of 21 traffic accidents had been reported within the first few hours of the heavy downpour.

Three photographs of the results of this storm were on the front page of this edition of the Sun. The first picture was of the water covering the intersection of Nellis Boulevard and Boulder Highway. The second picture was of the "umbrella" tree on Perliter St. in N. Las Vegas which was struck by lightning, and third, N. Las Vegas City Council meeting in City Hall due to power failure.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, July 20, 1974, #108, Volume LXVI

Thundershowers dropped heavy rains on Las Vegas Friday afternoon, flooding intersections and residences and causing power failures. The sudden downpour stranded motorist's cars, filled storm drains and caused minor damage. The weatherman predicted more afternoon and evening thundershowers through the weekend. (There were photos on pages 1 and 3.)

Las Vegas Review-Journal, July 24, 1974

Scattered flooding and some power loss resulted from a thunder, wind and rain storm Tuesday, and there was a 50 percent chance of more of it in the Las Vegas area Wednesday, with winds gusting as high as 50 miles per hour.

A National Weather Service spokesman said .35 inches of rain was reported at McCarran International Airport Tuesday, and .15 inches at Sunrise Manor.

Winds could be from ten to 20 miles per hour except in the thunder shower areas, with gusts up to 50 miles per hour. The spokesman said the showers were likely to hit in the afternoon and early evening hours.

The Nevada State Highway Department reported minor road damage in Lee Canyon on Mt. Charleston with flooding at Boulder Highway and Sunset Road. Lake Mead Boulevard near Sunrise Mountain and State Route 93 about 20 miles south of Las Vegas had minor road damage and flooding. Sunset Road was temporarily closed and flooding has subsided in the damaged areas.

The Clark County road department also reported flooding at

Boulder Highway and Nellis Boulevard about 5:00 P. M. Tuesday with minor flooding on Paradise Road, Maryland Parkway and Eastern and Tropicana Avenues,

Five primary Nevada Power Company power lines were downed in different areas of the valley from about 4:00 P. M. to 10:00 P. M., which caused outages for short times.

A spokesman said the "rough evening" did not damage any lines in the western or northwestern section of the area, but lightning and fierce winds dropped lines in East Las Vegas toward the Pittman area.

The Nellis Substation serving Nellis Air Force Base, was out for a time, also, but the spokesman said power was resumed to all areas by 10:00 P. M.

Officials in Boulder City reported there was some rain, but no problems resulted from it, and the National Park Service there also reported there had been no unusual problems.

County fire department personnel were busy during the evening assisting with a flooding problem in the basement of the Humanities Building at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, July 31, 1974

The National Weather Service reported Wednesday, afternoon and evening thunder showers were expected to continue through Thursday with wind gusts during the storm activity to hit an estimated 50 mph.

A spokesman for the weather service also predicted there could be some street flooding here and flash flooding in creek

areas in the desert and near the mountains.

Tuesday's storm left Las Vegas with power lines down in several locations and some street flooding had occurred, but surrounding area communities reported the weather situation had not caused undue damage or problems by early evening.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police reported the weather had caused some traffic accidents, but a spokesman for the department noted there were not as many accidents as during previous storms.

A key problem for police here was power loss which resulted in traffic lights being out in a number of locations.

Portions of North Las Vegas were without power during the peak of the storm about 4:00 P. M. including the police department, but a spokesman for the department said later in the night the storm had caused few problems for North Las Vegas.

Henderson Police reported Sunset Road had been closed and barricaded there because of flooding, but that the rest of the community was not unusually affected.

Boulder City Police and the National Park Service reported there had been very little storm activity in their regions.

Las Vegas Sun, Sept. 15, 1974, #77, Volume XXVI

Canyon of Death - 20 feared lost in county disaster!

A wall of floodwater with the force of a bursting dam yesterday, smashed through Eldorado Canyon at Lake Mohave, sweeping up mobile homes, cars, a restaurant, and people and sent them to their deaths in one of the worst disasters in

southern Nevada history.

Initial estimates were that anywhere from 12 to 20 persons perished in the surprise flash flood at the popular fishing resort 50 miles southeast of Las Vegas.

The tragedy burst at 2:45 P. M. during the height of a severe thunderstorm that pelted mountains bordering the lower Colorado River with heavy rainand hail.

Sheet runoff from the rain funneled into the long, steep, narrow canyon. When it hit the Eldorado resort, formerly called Nelson Landing, the wall of water was 20 feet high and formed a surging river more than a mile long.

As it swept through the mouth of the canyon, the flood carried away everything in its path including a gasoline dock and a small marina.

The initial wall of water deposited people, trailers, cars, and trucks and debris into a small bay at the mouth of the canyon. The continuing flood then covered everything with a sediment deposit of rocks and mud estimated to be 40 feet deep.

The Eldorado Restaurant had been 100 feet inland from the shoreline. Only small splinters of wood from which it had been built were found floating along the shore later.

Power and telephone lines had been downed and word was first received by the National Park Service by a boater who put in at Willow Beach, upstream, and notified a ranger.

Eldorado Canyon lies within the boundaries of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, administered by the National Park

Service.

Eyewitnesses said wave after wave seemed to crest in the Canyon as floodwaters swept past. An estimated 50 to 60 cars were swept away. As many as 20 mobile homes and travel trailers were sent into the lake, many with people in them.

Those mobile homes that were not swept into the lake were demolished. After the flood had subsided, they sat leaning against each other like a fallen row of dominoes.

There had been more than 100 persons weekending at Eldorado Canyon before the flood. When rescuers arrived there were only half that number standing numbly about in apparent shock.

Eldorado Canyon is 600 to 800 feet wide, but narrows to 150 feet with steep walls at its mouth where the resort was located.

The terrain acts as a natural funnel for flood waters moving through the canyon. The water picks up depth and momentum as it reaches the mouth.

National Park Service officials more than a year ago proposed that resorts and campgrounds, including Eldorado Canyon, be closed because of the potential flood hazard. The move was blocked by local forces seeking to protect concession business in the area and recreational opportunities for vacationers.

The debris, with cars, trailers, and people on the bottom, and mud, silt, and rock on the top, created a new shoreline at the mouth of the Canyon, some 100 yards further out than the original shoreline had been.

The National Weather Service early yesterday issued a flash flood warning for the entire Colorado River south of Hoover Dam, which was to be in effect until midnight.

Hoover Dam is 27 miles upstream (north) of where the tragedy occurred.

(Photos of the damage are on pages 1 and 37.)

Las Vegas Review-Journal, October 3, 1974

The storm that swept through the Las Vegas Valley is on its way out, according to the National Weather Service, although there is a slight chance of showers with cooler temperatures through Friday.

The rain measured .23 of an inch at McCarran International Airport and 1.01 of an inch at Boulder City. Daytime temperatures will be in the mid 80s and the overnight lows in the high 50s. Winds will be variable at 10 to 20 miles per hour at times.

The five-day outlook calls for fair and mild weather with variable winds and a cooling trend. Daytime temperatures will be in the mid 80s and the overnight lows near 60 degrees.

Scattered reports of flooding in low lying areas and frequent but brief power outages were recorded by Nevada Power Company.

The Weather Service issued a flash flood warning for the Lake Mohave area of southern Nevada, where a flood three weeks ago claimed at least four lives.

The Weather Service said thundershowers would be locally heavy Thursday morning in Southern Nevada before diminishing

this afternoon and tonight.

During the 24-hour period ending at dawn today, Tonopah reported .32 of an inch of rain, while .23 of an inch fell in Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, October 27, 1974

Saturday's storm across the Las Vegas Valley resulted in power outages in Boulder City and flash flood warnings, but did not seem to hamper travel.

The Nevada Highway Patrol reported all roads and highways were open and although flash flood alerts were in effect throughout Saturday night, travel had not been restricted by 8:00 P. M.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, December 4, 1974

Las Vegas woke up to the pitter-patter of raindrops Wednesday, and then ran into flooded streets and low-lying areas.

Early in the day the weatherman said the rainfall measured .25 of an inch---but you couldn't prove it, by the number of drenched hairdos and flooded out cars.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police were busy early in the day with minor, skidding-type collisions and accidents, one of them involving a police car.

It appeared it was going to get wetter.

The National Weather Service at McCarran International Airport said more rain and strong, gusty winds were scheduled through Thursday.

Las Vegas Sun, February 15, 1975

Swiftly-marching thunderstorms arose suddenly yesterday afternoon, ringing the valley with brilliant lightning as gale-force winds battered the City.

Parts of glittering downtown casino center were darkened by power outages. Streams of inbound tourist traffic slowed to a crawl, as wind and blizzard conditions besieged highways jammed with holiday weekend travelers.

Drizzling rain and poor visibility teamed up to trigger countless minor accidents in the City. No serious injuries were reported.

Winds gusted to more than 50 miles per hour, uprooting several trees in Paradise Valley. Lightning set a number of trees ablaze in the Sunrise Manor area.

Hail pelted a 200-mile radius, heavily around Caliente to the north to moderate in the Red Rock area west of Las Vegas and light around Lake Mead.

Shifting winds gusted erratically at lakeside harbors, causing high waves and minor boat damage. All craft were warned to avoid the lake.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, March 11, 1975

The weatherman held true to his promise of a "chance of showers" as a low pressure front moving in from California all but soaked the Las Vegas Valley Tuesday.

The result was slick streets and flooded intersections in the lower areas of the Valley.

But it all may go away by Thursday with the low pressure system moving on, according to the National Weather Service.

The forecast is cloudy with showers and southerly winds at 10 to 20 miles per hour and gusty near the mountains. The showers will continue through Wednesday.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, July 4, 1975, #90, Volume LXVII

Death and destruction slammed into Las Vegas at the beginning of this Fourth of July holiday as flash floods throughout the Las Vegas region hit with stunning suddenness Thursday.

One City employee in North Las Vegas was confirmed dead and his companion believed dead, and damages that may run as high as several hundred thousand dollars were reported throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

The dead man was identified as Mike Williams, 20, who worked with the street department. The search continued for Richard Hunkins, 25, a fellow worker.

The men were swept away from their vehicle about 6:00 P.M. Thursday, when they were hit by a wall of water at Losee and Craig Roads, said witnesses. Williams was discovered about a mile south of Losee, lying in a wash area near railroad tracks running along Craig Road.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police also received unconfirmed reports about 8:00 A.M. Friday, that two bodies were observed near Caesar's Palace, where a flash flood hit with incredible impact, Thursday night.

Officials of police and fire department agencies said early Friday, it was much too early to give estimates of damage because their forces were involved with cleanup and rescue operations and there had not been time to look at the overall situation.

Some of the cars swept away from Caesar's Palace were reported found miles away, and several miles of roadway throughout the Las Vegas region were still closed because of extensive damage or remaining flood waters.

A spokesman for the Las Vegas Public Works Department said it was the worst flooding in the area since 1955 which caused an estimated three million dollars of damage.

The City drainage system is not designed to handle such heavy rainfall, so the streets have to drain it slowly, he said.

Widespread damage was reported throughout the Valley.

At Caesar's Palace more than 100 cars were submerged in the parking lot where signs warn of the possibility of flash flooding. The cars were parked in an area called Flamingo Wash.

In all, 300 to 500 cars were involved in the flood, a hotel spokesman said.

Las Vegas Police closed off the strip from the Frontier Hotel to the Dunes Hotel and choked off some business along the way for several hours.

Police also reported gushing waters swept 25 cars from the parking lot of the Marina Hotel.

A river of water poured through L & H Builder's Supply at 311 Bonanza Road, carrying lumber across the railroad tracks and filling the underpass with 12 feet of brown water.

Police reported roads in the west part of Las Vegas had turned to rivers. Flooding reached depths of four feet and washed soil, rocks, garbage cans and other debris down the streets. People worked through the afternoon to pull stalled cars out of muddy lakes.

Momentary power outages were reported throughout the Valley and more than 100 Central Telephone Company customers reported difficulties with their phones.

Police also reported between 30 and 40 persons were forced from their townhouses because of the mud in their homes. The mud reached levels of up to two feet.

Police worked through the night to clear clogged streets, direct traffic, and give assistance at traffic accidents.

Fire Department and police officials urged people to stay off the streets until flood waters subsided so emergency vehicles could pass without problems.

Las Vegas City Hall looked like a medieval castle encircled by a moat.

Rushing, light brown water flooded Las Vegas Boulevard, Stewart Avenue and Fourth Street with about two feet of water.

Although the streets around City Hall were flooded, traffic officers were able to keep the vehicles crawling along. Only one road near City Hall had to be closed for high water. The Fourth Street-Las Vegas Expressway underpass was flooded with about three feet of water. (Photos of the Caesar's Palace parking lot, Las Vegas Expressway, and Bonanza Avenues on pages 1 and 37).

Las Vegas Review-Journal, August 22, 1975

Las Vegans are in for more showers and thundershowers with strong winds through Friday, according to the National Weather Service.

Flash flood warnings were put into effect Wednesday afternoon, but were cancelled at 8:00 A. M. Thursday.

The National Park Service reported heavy thundershowers with some flooding and strong winds around the Lake Mead area. Lake Mohave was reported to have had some flooding, heavy showers, and silt in the water, about 15 feet out.

Willow Beach reported heavy thundershowers. Callville Bay boaters reported flash flood damage at the edge of Lake Mead, but no extensive property losses or injuries were reported.

A U. S. Coast Guard trailer and National Park Service trailer in the Callville Bay area were damaged by gushing waters on Wednesday night, along with several vacation mobil homes.

The road leading to Kingman Wash in Arizona was closed for repairs from the flood.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, September 10, 1975

Tuesday rainfall measured .23 of an inch and the Weather Service said Wednesday's precipitation should be considerable less. However, it said there could be heavy showers in the mountain areas. Runoff from heavy rains near West Charleston and Rainbow Boulevard rolled into the downtown Las Vegas area Tuesday morning. By midday water was over the curbs in some downtown locations, including the vicinity of City Hall. The

Las Vegas Strip received lighter rains.

The Charleston and Bonanza underpasses were closed because of high water, but were cleared by late afternoon.

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