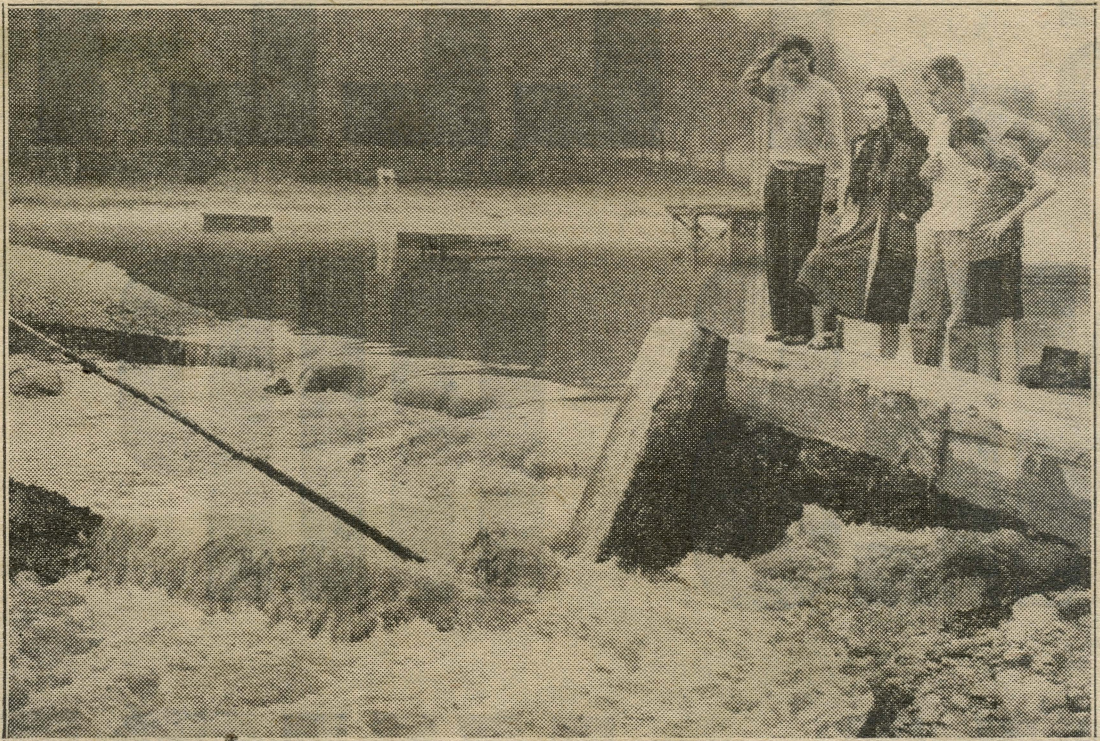


100 N. Y., N. J. Towns Paralyzed by Floods

The worst flood in a generation poured over northern New Jersey and southern New York yesterday, transforming miles of street and countryside into rivers of destruction.

Fed by a week of steady rain, flood waters raged through a 6-mile-wide belt extend-



(NEWS photo by Leviness)

Waters rush through washed-out dam in Crestwood Lake Park, Allendale, N. J.

ing 20 miles south from Spring Valley, N. Y., to Little Falls, N. J., and striking hardest in three counties—Bergen and Passaic in Jersey, and upstate Rockland, where a giant dam was threatened last night.

In more than 100 communities, normal activity came to a virtual stop as the rampaging Passaic and Ramapo rivers forced evacuation of thousands from their valley homes, closed dozens of war plants, burst dams, and washed out roadbeds, bridge foundations, and railroad tracks—paralyzing normal traffic for hours.

Hardest hit was the city of Paterson, where the overflowing Passaic came in at one end of the city, and swollen mountain streams—that were babbling brooks 24 hours before—ripped through the other end.

Milk, newspaper and bread deliveries were suspended throughout the area and a virtual state of emergency existed as hundreds of police, firemen and civilian defense volunteers turned out.

The Passaic was still rising last

night, but harried officials believed the waters would start receding today, as an end was forecast to the heavy rainfall, which had carried the river to its highest levels since 1903.

Seven bridges over the Passaic were closed, and in some cases the water swirled over the bridge platforms themselves and then raced on to maroon hundreds of autoists and pedestrians caught in the vicinity.

Damage ran into the millions as

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