

Turbulent Waters Leave Destruction in Allendale

ALLENDALE

The entire business section of Allendale was flooded when dams at Crestwood Lake and Freeman's Pond gave way to the pressure of swollen streams above the town and swept down through West Crescent and Myrtle Avenues to cover the town waste-deep with a sea of turbulent water.

Greatest damage to a single area was done to the Erie Railroad, where 200 feet of Westbound passenger tracks was washed out, causing long delays in the movement of commuter trains. Trains were detoured over westbound freight tracks during the early stages of repairs.

Mayor Directs Relief

Mayor George L. Christopher organized rescue and relief forces with the assistance of many volunteer citizens including Life Guards Paul D. O'Conner and Leonard Baum Jr.

Eight members of the Alsdorf family were taken out of their home by boats. A turkey hen with a new brood resisted all attempts at rescue and was lost along with most of the birds raised on the place.

The Allendale Celery farm was completely inundated and the entire crop lost.

A car driven by G. Heinzelmann of Waldwick was caught in the West Crescent Avenue underpass and buried in mud and water. The driver escaped uninjured. Kenneth Booth, responding to an alarm call, stalled his car in the roaring flood sweeping down West Allendale Avenue and had to wade to safety. The car was moved under its own power the following day.

Recreation Park was completely inundated when Crestwood Lake's retaining wall let go, pouring millions of gallons of water down West Crescent and Allendale Avenues. At its peak the water was waist-deep at the intersection. Brookside Avenue Bridge was completely destroyed along with the iron guard rail and the entire road bed.

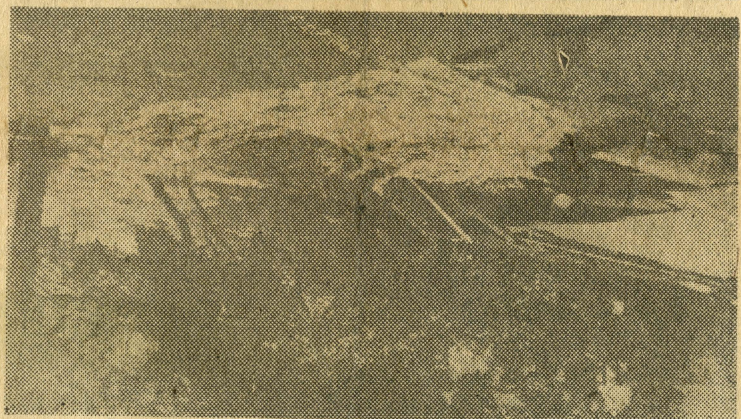
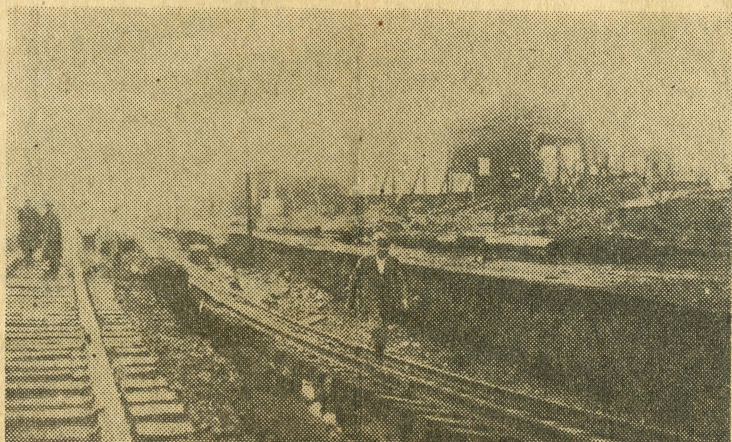


Photo by Bradley Dargue & Jean Cullen

The top picture, taken shortly after the railroad track wash-out occurred on the west side of the West Crescent Avenue underpass, shows part of the more than two hundred foot section of the west-bound passenger track left suspended in mid-air. The gully created was more than ten feet deep. Repair work, carried on day and night, started immediately and yesterday morning the tracks had already been placed in position. The lower picture shows the collapsed Brookside Avenue bridge and road-bed over the normally quiet stream east of the Allendale school. The four foot iron bridge crumpled like paper and with but a few feet of roadway left, it was necessary to close the street to all traffic. Other County repair work it was said may cause a delay in repair in this case.