

Nearly A Month After Big Snow

Farm Loss Still Being Checked

Nearly one month after high winds and snows pummeled southwestern Pennsylvania, the extent of storm damage to farms remains uncertain, according to the Pennsylvania Agriculture Department.

Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Jim McHale said it was essential to pinpoint farm damage that occurred in a nine-county area following the Dec. 1 snowstorm so that farmers could receive aid in the form of federal emergency loans.

McHale explained that the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) routinely surveys this kind of damage. "But since ASCS' local Disaster Review Boards had no early reports of extensive farm damage, we decided to supplement ASCS' efforts with our own surveys," said McHale.

In a report received in the middle of December, ASCS estimated that 1,500 to 2,000 farms had been affected by the storm with an average loss of \$200 to

\$700 per farm for a total of \$1 million in eight counties.

However, ASCS conceded that this estimate could double or triple when the "off" production of dairy cattle and poultry flocks is calculated.

ASCS termed farm damage in three counties, Fayette, Somerset and Westmoreland, as severe. Damage in five counties was considered moderate. These include Allegheny, Beaver, Cambria, Indiana and Washington Counties. The State Dept. of Agriculture includ-

ed a ninth county in its survey, Greene County.

While damage to buildings and corn crops still in the fields was reported, the greatest losses were attributed to the effects of power shortages on feeding, watering and milking dairy herds. Southwestern milk dealers had reported a severe drop in milk supplies one week to two weeks following the storm.

McHale said it was obvious that total losses to western Pennsylvania farms would exceed \$1 million "when we know how many dairy cows were dried up

after being thrown off their milking schedules."

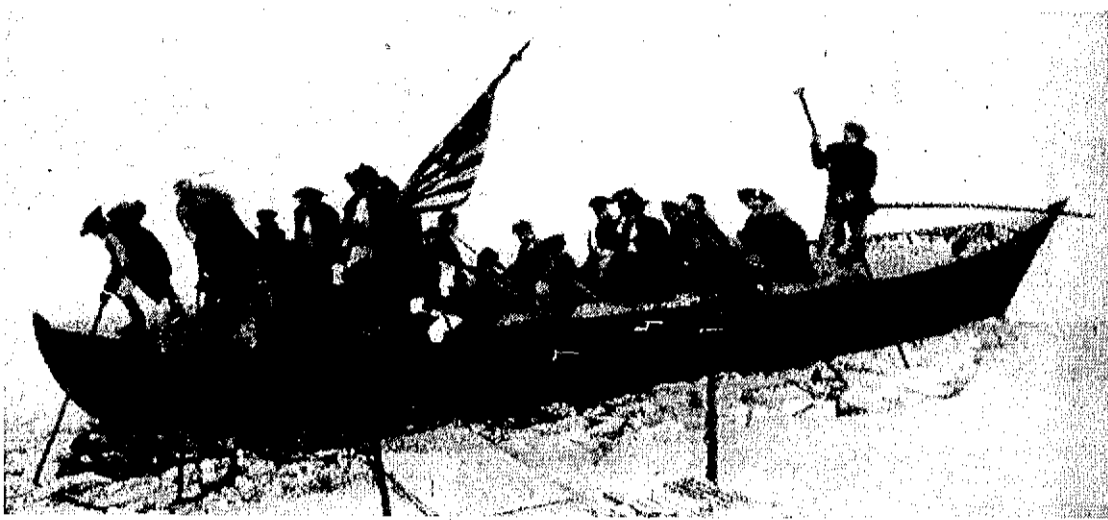
The secretary pointed out that his department's own survey was producing far more drastic disaster figures. "For example," said McHale, "our survey of Fayette County is giving us an average per farm damage well above \$3,000."

He cited one poultry farm in Fayette County that reported a \$12,000 loss. With no electricity to run pumps for water and fans, this farm lost 3,000 chickens which caused an egg loss of 13 cases per day.

Another Fayette County poultry farm reported an \$80,000 loss resulting from a collapsed building and a loss of 4,000 chickens.

A dairy farm in that county sustained a loss of \$3,000 when ten cows went dry and a load of meat was lost.

McHale said his department will continue its survey with the aim of getting USDA to declare the nine counties in southwestern Pennsylvania a disaster area, enabling farmers to secure emergency disaster loans.



Re-enactment of Washington crossing at Christmas 1776, the last year there was ice on the Delaware River.

Crossing Delaware A Special Holiday

By HERBERT G. PELKEY
Associated Press Writer

and
BILL INGRAHAM
AP Photographer

WASHINGTON CROSSING, Pa. (AP)—Nature and history meet here along the banks of the Delaware where Christmas holds a special meaning for Americans. Here a national dream, about to die in the ice and snow, was reborn and nursed to fulfillment.

It was 198 years ago (December 25-26) that George Washington carried out the boldest stroke of the war for independence, the crossing of the icy Delaware on Christmas night to attack Trenton.

It would be five more years before Cornwallis, the British commander, would end the war by surrendering at Yorktown, Va., but on this thin thread hung the future of nations.

No one knew this better than Cornwallis. Looking straight into the eyes of the man who had defeated him, Cornwallis told Washington:

"When the illustrious part which your excellency has borne in the long and arduous contest becomes a matter of history, fame will gather your brightest laurels from the banks of the Delaware, rather than those of the Chesapeake."

The embarkation point and encampment areas now are part of Washington Crossing State Park, a 499-acre preserve in Bucks County, 15 miles north of Philadelphia. There also is a state park on the New Jersey side.

The crossing has been immortalized in Emmanuel Luetz' heroic painting, "Washington Crossing the Delaware," a 21-by-42-foot copy of which hangs in the park's memorial building.

The original painting, now at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, had hung here for 11 years until the copy was completed in 1969.

The park attracts an estimated two million visitors a year. Many of them return again and again, according to Park Director Wilmer Fisher, to sit before the painting to meditate or listen to the nine-minute narration of the events.

It is a moving experience. Moist eyes are common. There also is a 28-minute film depicting the event that plays twice daily.

Nearby are restored structures used by Washington and his staff, including the Thompson-Neely House where Washington made the decision that would change the course of the war. Today it looks much as it did then.

Visitors strolling the open fields or woods are likely to come across simple unmarked stones where unknown members of Washington's small band lie buried.

And on Christmas Day, as they have each year since 1952, St. John Terrell, a 58-year-old producer from Fwing, N.J., and 59 other residents of the Delaware Valley, garbed in authentic costumes, reenact the crossing. The only two known replicas of the 40-foot Durham boats are used to make the 800-foot trip.

The event attracts more than 15,000 visitors annually to the banks of the river.

Four miles north along the River Road is Bowman's Hill, where Washington's sentries scanned the river below and areas on both sides for enemy activity.

Those making the dizzying 121-step climb to the top of the memorial tower are rewarded with a breathtaking view of the surrounding countryside.

Much of the upper park is devoted to a wildflower preserve, whose 26 trails contain what possibly is the most complete collection of American flowering plants of the Middle Atlantic states.

Oliver Stark, park botanist, estimates there are more than 1,000 species of plants.

The great eastern white pines that sheltered Washington's ragged men have long since gone down the river in log rafts to build ships in the yards at Philadelphia.

But the rhododendrons are still there. The hemlocks remain. Tulip, poplar, oak and sweet birch cover the north slope of the hill, while oak and maple shade the southern slope.

The juncoes and white-throated sparrows scratch where their ancestors scratched in the melting snow around Continental campfires. Titmouse and an occasional purple finch still dart from spruce groves to snatch morsels of suet.

The last time there was ice on the Delaware on Christmas Day was in 1967. But if you bundle warmly and take a vacuum flask of coffee on a grey winter day you can sit on the hill or along the river bank and let your mind go back to that time almost 200 years ago.

Recall when Washington's ill fed, poorly equipped army was forced out of New York City.

Setback followed setback. The long retreat through New Jersey, abandoning what little supplies there were along the way. And finally crossing into Pennsylvania near New Hope, commanding or destroying craft on both sides of the river and putting the Delaware between Washington's army and the British.

Washington's 6,000 men had dwindled to about 2,400, many whose enlistments would expire with the new year. Desertions increased. Suffering was everywhere.

"The game is almost up," Washington wrote to his brother.

Winter closed down on the Delaware, and in Philadelphia Tom Paine wrote the stirring words that were to marshal one last effort.

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

On December 23, Washington decided to move. The watchword was "victory or death."

By then the river was in full flood. Massive sheets of ice whirled down from the upper reaches. Militarily speaking the Delaware in icy spate was impassable.

Yet on Christmas night the land was as if as Pennsylvanians, Virginians, New Jerseyans and others made for the river in gale-driven sleet and the waiting Durham boats.

The trail was tinged here and there with blood from the feet of near naked men who wore broken shoes or none at all.

"It will be a terrible night for the soldiers, but I have heard no man complain," an officer wrote.

Back and forth the oarsmen poled the craft, loading and unloading men, horses and cannon. By 4 a.m. there were still nine miles to march before dawn. Powder had been dampened by the storm and most weapons were useless.

"Tell General Sullivan to use the bayonet. I am resolved to take Trenton," Washington ordered.

The attack on the unsuspecting Hessian defenders lasted little more than half an hour. The results have lasted 200 years.

British historian George Trevelyan summed it up in words similar to those used by another great Englishman during another war.

"It may be doubted whether so small a number of men ever employed so short a space of time with greater and more lasting results upon the history of the world."

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Manor Talks Held

There is a possibility of a strike by non-professional workers at LaFayette Manor, the county's home for aged persons, and it could come as early as Jan. 1.

The employees are represented by Local 565 of Service Employees International, AFL-CIO. A call to the Herald-Standard indicated that a proposed pay raise for some 35 workers at

the manor is not acceptable.

Efforts to reach Rosemary Trump, Local 565 president with headquarters in Monroeville, were unsuccessful.

County Commissioner Chairman Fred L. Lebder confirmed that the county is negotiating with the union and that a state mediator has sat in on the bargaining sessions.

He added that a pay raise proposal has

been made, that it must be voted on by the membership and that to his knowledge the vote has not yet taken place.

Although no specific figures were given, it has been learned that the pay hike is the same as that agreed to for a three-year period by court-related union employees.

Non-professional workers at the manor now receive about \$2.15 per hour.

District Hospital News Listed

UNIONTOWN

Discharges: James Angry, Frank Bour, Antonina Cassano, Susan Cervenak, Nick Congelio, Ruth Craig, Orest Durso, Kathryn Franks, Gregg Glusica, Lydia Holchin, Dolores Hower, Mrs. Nancy King and son, Christopher Koschock, Donald Law.

Mary Lilley, Rose Lopick, William Minehart, Mrs. Marylyn Moon and son, Emma Perazzola, Mary Porado, Joseph Powell, James Rennie, Olive Rider, Santo Rapano, Joseph Savanik, Hazel Sebel, Neife Sladkey, Mrs. Betty Varndell and daughter.

Mary Woodfill, Joan Baird, Lillian Cohen, Charles Glisan, Susan Fowler, Mrs. Terry Griest and daughter, Margaret Kleicho, Elisa Lavery, Maggie Johnson, Ralph Paull, Betty Fherly, Austin Beckwith.

Mrs. Toni Bowers and son,

Mrs. Mary Burgess and daughter, Mrs. Brenda Gillen and daughter, Delia Joseph, Mrs. Donna Mehalek and daughter, Sharon Shaw, Veronica Whitby.

BROWNSVILLE

Admissions: Steven Tency, Charleoi R. D. 2; Mrs. Julia Parruda, Brownsville; Mike Pitex, Denbo; Mrs. Mary Lou Stagers, Brownsville; Marlene Memeth, Brunswick, Ohio.

Discharges: Anthony Curcio, Mrs. Mary Jane Scott and son, John Anderkovich, Mrs. Verona Gazdick, Elmer Gola, Floyd Lyons, Rugie Fagiololetti, Steven Mosier, Richard Novsek, Steve Fornick, Nicolas Enerapra.

Mrs. Eleanor June House and son, Joe Mannina, Mrs. Deborah Tunney and daughter, Mrs. Eva M. Myers, Mrs. Victoria Adamec and son,

Rev. Alexander Zahand, Mrs. Mary Lou Stagers, Mrs. Mildred Myles, Mrs. Susan Leech and daughter.

CONNELLSVILLE

Admissions: Mrs. Clara Tulley, Conneltsville; Mrs. Nora Grimm, Conneltsville; George Fuller, Vanderbilt; Christopher Reilly, Con-

neltsville; Mrs. Estella Cunningham, Uniontown.

Discharges: George Murray, Mrs. Bessie Glover, Mrs. Stella Pegan, Bruce Mullen, Dolly Wolfe, Susan Antenzi, Mrs. Rose Mary Geary and son, Daniel Querc, Rev. Stewart Proper, Joseph Knapp.

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