22,000 ROUTED BY FLOODS IN THREE STATES

Mississippi Spreads Over 26,000 Acres

Hannibal, Mo., June 9 (AP)—The Mississippi river surged to record high levels and then crested in northern Missouri and Illinois today in a flood that left 22,000 persons homeless in three states. Twelve persons were listed as dead.

Approximately 26,000 acres of farmland between Wapello, Ia., and St. Louis were under water, and an additional 120,000 acres on the Illinois side were threatened.

The waters reached into several river communities.

Downstream from St. Louis a further rise of up to five feet was forecast by the weather bureau, which said that in that area "it will hardly be a major flood in the sense of the 1943 and 1944 floods."

Rail, Road Traffic Hit

Rail traffic between St. Louis and Burlington, Ia., had been halted, and highways were closed in flood areas along the river.

Water was eight to 10 feet deep in Alexandria, Mo., near the Iowa line.

In Hannibal, one block of the main street and the Burlington railroad yards were under water. Farms north of Hannibal were under eight feet of water.

Failure of a levee at Alexandria eased the flood situation at Canton, Mo., somewhat and the water was receding after about half of the city had been inundated.

Quincy Not in Danger

At Quincy, Ill., where the river reached a record stage of 23.6 feet, railroad yards were flooded, but the town itself, situated on a bluff, was not endangered.

Col. W. M. Leaf, district army engineer at Rock Island, Ill., said the Mississippi was cresting north of Hannibal but that "the danger remains great."

"Our heaviest fight now is to save the levee in Pike county, Ill., across from Hannibal," he said. About 120,000 acres were threatened with inundation in this area, he said.

The army engineers reported eight levee breaks between Wapello, Ia., and Louisiana, Mo.

One Dead in Nebraska

St. Edward, Neb., June 9 (AP)—One person was killed and another seriously injured tonight when a violent windstorm and rain struck the St. Edward area about 100 miles west of Omaha.

Iowa Farmer Killed

Akron, Ia., June 3 (AP)—One farmer, Hugh Smith, was killed and another injured tonight in a tornado that wiped out virtually all the buildings on four farms near here and killed an undetermined number of livestock.

CIO CHIEFS O. K. BRIGGS PLANT WORKERS STRIKE

The executive board of the CIO United Auto Workers in a meeting here yesterday unanimously authorized a strike of 20,000 Briggs manufacturing company workers starting tomorrow if the company fails to agree to the union's wage and other demands by then.

Principal issues in the dispute are retroactivity of a proposed 15-cent equivalent hourly wage increase, whether 500 salaried employes should be covered by the contract, and revisions of grievance procedure.

The walkout was approved previously by the members and scheduled for six Briggs plants in Detroit and one in Evansville.

Detroit Plants Shut

Detroit, June 9—[Special]—Labor disputes today caused shutdowns of the Conner av. plant of the Briggs Manufacturing company and two body assembly departments of the Ford Motor company's River Rouge plant.

REPORTS THEFT OF SEAT COVERS

The theft of eight sets of seat covers from his automobile at 3012 State st. was reported to police yesterday by Kurt Weiser, 8144 Jeffery av.

CLAIMS ACCUSED PASTOR WANTED LARGER CHURCH

Jury Is Chosen to Try Milwaukeean

Milwaukee, June 9 [Special] — The Rev. Dr. John Lewis, 73, heard himself accused at his trial for arson today of setting fire to his big downtown church, the Calvary Presbyterian, last Jan. 25 so he could become pastor of a larger church in the Milwaukee area.

This accusation was made by Joseph E. Tierney in his opening statement to the jury of 10 men and two women selected earlier in the day to sit in the pastor's Municipal court trial before Judge Herbert J. Steffes. Arson is punishable in Wisconsin by imprisonment from 1 to 10 years.

This was the first idication of the state's theory in regard to the Rev. Dr. Lewis' possible motive for the alleged setting of the fire.

$150,000 Damage to Church

Flames damaged the structure, located at N. 9th st. and W. Wisconsin av., to the extent of $150,000.

Tierney said the pastor wanted a bigger church with broadcasting facilities. He said the Rev. Dr. Lewis tried to arrange a merger in 1945 with the Wauwatosa Presbyterian church under which the downtown edifice would be abandoned and he would become lecturer of the combined church. His board of elders turned the plan down.

Tierney said the pastor also attempted in 1945 to arrange a sale of the church to the Croation Catholic church, now located at N. 9th st. and W. Juneau av. and in need of larger quarters. The Rev. Dr. Lewis proposed a sale for $40,000, Tierney said, but the elders held out for $75,000 and the deal fell thru.

Infers Hope of New Church

Tierney did not explain how the burning of the church was expected by the Rev. Dr. Lewis to result in his becoming pastor of a larger church. But he left the inference that he believed the presbytery would replace the burned structure with a new and larged edifice.

Harry V. Meissner, attorney for the Rev. Dr. Lewis, addressed the jury briefly, pleading that every one "retain an open mind."

Dist. Atty. William J. McCauley, who questioned prospective jurors, asked three questions of each:

Would the fact that the defendant is an ordaned minister influence you in arriving at a verdict.

"Would his age influence you?

"Would you give greater weight to his testimony because he is an ordained minister than you would if he were not?"

All replied in the negative.

Questioned About Church

Meissner questioned veniremen about their church affiliations and asked if they had any prejudice against any church.

Dr. Lewis was arrested Feb. 21. Three months later three alienists, appointed by the court to determine the mental condition of the aged pastor, reported that he was "sane, not incapacitated to act for himself, knows right from wrong, and realizes the nature of the act."

Since his arrest Dr. Lewis submitted to a serious operation, but appeared to be fully recovered when he appeared in court. He said, cheerfully, "I am in tip-top shape."

BICYCLE REPORTED STOLEN

James Martin, 2235 Warren blvd., reported to police yesterday that his bicycle, valued at $49, was stolen.

EISLER DENIES HE EVER DEFIED HOUSE PROBERS

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Washington, June 9—Gerhart Eisler, identified as the chief liaison agent between Russia and the Communist party in the United States, today took the witness stand in federal District court and denied he had refused to be sworn in and testify before the house un-American activities committee last Feb. 6.

Eisler, an admitted Communist, is on trial for contempt of congress. The un-American activities committee cited him for contempt on the ground he refused to take the oath as a witness and testify.

The defendant related thru the questioning of his attorney that he came to the United States en route to Mexico in June, 1941, as a "political refugee" from a concentration camp in France.

Describing his actions at the hearing, Eisler said he took the witness stand, but did not want to take the oath as a witness before addressing "a few remarks" to the committee.

REPORTS PURSE SNATCHING

Miss Lena Roland, 2629 Michigan av., told police yesterday her purse, containing $6 and a fountain pen, was snatched near her home.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Flower holder [Ital.]
5. Bounders.
9. Guiding
14. Object of worship
15. Mine entrance
16. Get up
17. Fine
18. Loud sound
19. Revel
20. Racket.
22. Once around the course
24. Chief
25. Filthy place
26. Trouble
28. Cougar
30. Fluid
32. Forest patrol
36. Atomizer
39. Mature
41. Land measure
42. Permission to use
43. Move edgewise
44. Layout
45. Tree
46. Prolonged attack
47. Smallest
48. More sluggish [slang]
50. Loosens
52. Honeymakers
54. Small bookroom
55. Fitting
58. A yorker [cricket]
61. At this time
63. Neckband
65. The Salientia [zool.]
67. Erudition
69. Malarial fever
70. Corrosive
71. Empty
72. Free ticket
73. Lariat
74. Brink
75. Beholds

DOWN

1. Venom
2. Make fit
3. Remorseful
4. Butter substitute
5. Vegetable
6. Excitement
7. Adjust radio
8. Leather band
9. Step
10. Parentless
11. Italian money
12. On the ocean
13. Swamp grass
21. Thence
23. Thick soup
27. Ghostly
29. Homo sapiens
30. Blanched
31. Wale
33. Festive
34. Epochs
35. Let
36. Vehicle
37. Game
38. Inclined walk
40. Allege in vindication
43. Enchantress
44. Footlike part
46. Witness
47. Curtain fabric
49. Candytuft
51. Withdraw formally
53. Clear up
55. Seaweed
56. Hesitate
57. Lock
58. Afrikaans
59. South American Indian
60. Mongrels
62. Lumber
64. Licks up
66. Fuss
68. Equip

Puzzle of Monday, June 9, Solved.

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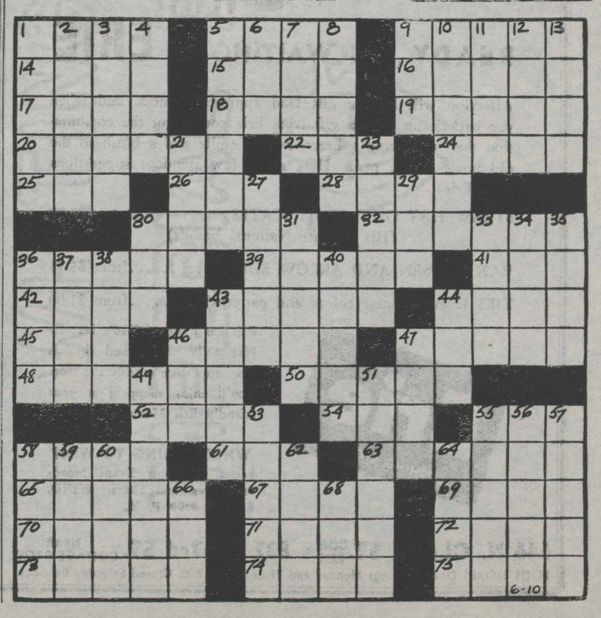

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