

# B'ham Volunteers Still Working in Flint Tornado Area

By ALICE E. MORGAN

Birmingham still is playing an active part in offering aid and support to the victims of the tornado which struck the Flint area, June 8, killing over 100 persons and destroying hundreds of homes.

Volunteer nurses still are working there and others still needed, according to Mrs. H. Rodriguez, nurse recruitment chairman in Royal Oak of the Oakland County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Mrs. Rodriguez said 12 Oakland county nurses were on duty in Flint now, several of them in the gas gangrene ward at Hurley hospital.

"We need others," she said, not particularly for this ward, but to give overworked nurses in all hospitals a chance to rest. Volunteer nurses stay in Flint for long periods, only a day or two will be a great help to those on duty there now.

Mrs. Pruden, vice chairman of volunteers, worked in Flint all last week with 50 staff officers and 500 volunteers who were on duty by Tuesday night.

THE MESSAGE center, according to Mrs. Pruden, is receiving

financial aid in rebuilding homes. "When their particular conditions do not warrant federal aid," she explained, "we assist them with filing forms and other details. In some instances our job makes and deriving sums of money to help them temporarily."

"Just what everything was getting smoothed out again, the heavy wind and rain storm struck Friday afternoon. Those noisy people still dazed and shocked, were panic stricken. Many of them were eating at the Red Cross tent when it was blown down, frightening them terribly."

"Others, who had been able to salvage some of their household furnishings, had to stand helplessly by and watch them get snatched with the downpour. Windows in a huge warehouse, storing their furnishings, were destroyed, and much more property damage done."

"We had offers of all types of volunteer service, more in some cases than we could use. Whenever possible, these persons were referred to other agencies who could use them."

"The one thing which struck me, though, was the marvelous job done by the various police units stationed there. Their job was huge and they handled it beautifully. No praise given them can be extravagant."

MRS. BENNETT, answering the many inquiries from Birmingham residents, said Tuesday there is no need for clothing in the storm area. "There are huge quantities available," she said, "and to send more would place an additional burden of handling and carting on an already overburdened area. Money is the big need, right now, and all contributions will be most gratefully accepted either through the Flint chapter or the Pontiac office."

"The blood donation program, she said, was well taken care of at present, although a need would arise for replacement supplies before long."

"At the outset of the emergency, we were swamped with volunteers and accepted as many as we could. Blood was given to persons suffering from injuries and shock Monday night and soon after the volunteer donors started coming in the processing facilities of every hospital were packed."

"We will have to call on the public later, after things have quieted down sufficiently for us to handle donors again."

MRS. BENNETT said the motor corps, under the direction of Mrs. J. W. Taylor, handled its assignment of transporting names and Red Cross supplies immediately after the storm. They are still on a stand-by basis, she explained, though not active at the moment in the storm area.

"It might be of interest to area residents," Mrs. Bennett explained, "to know that many were glad they gave to the Red Cross last March are already helping those in need here. We are going to need dollars, too, and we feel sure that the many who were equal to the horror of the storm will rally to the support of the Red-Cross to help them."

IN BIRMINGHAM, too, utilities companies played a part in the storm area.

"We had a short while before the Flint area was damaged, called for a stand-by basis, she explained, though not active at the moment in the storm area.

WALTER FAUSER, local manager for Michigan Bell Telephone, said men from this district were called into the area, where 2,600 phones had been put out of commission. He said all service had been restored within 24 hours, but some buildings were left intact.

FAUSER SAID Michigan Bell was at the scene with mobile units within an hour after the storm and helped handle communications calling for aid, police and National Guard patrols and the like.

In the Flint area, a company replaced 400 poles, 6 miles of cable and 66 miles of open wire at a cost of \$200,000. No damage to the cable was done over the state west on duty there.

However, a large section in the southwest part of the city was without electric power from 2:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Paul Grant, speaking for the local Edison office, said the first report which is presently under consideration was not until 4:45 that the trouble spot was located. Full power was restored within 25 minutes after this break was located.

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**Franklin Vote To Be Set June 22 By Supervisors**

The next step in the march to split Southfield township into incorporated areas will be decided Monday, June 22, when the Oakland Board of Supervisors is expected to set the date for the Franklin Village incorporation vote.

Franklin residents have petitioned to become an incorporated village and the "town that time forgot" which is presently under consideration for a rapid residential development.

**Detroit Treatment For City Sewage To Start July 1**

Facilities of the Southeastern Oakland County Sewage Disposal system are expected to be opened for use by the City of Birmingham on July 1.

Final negotiations have been completed with Detroit officials and the Detroit water department has advised the city commission that the Oakland county drain commission will begin billing the city for disposal of sewage from the first of next month.

**Electric Power Failure Creates Odd Situations**

Cable failure cut electric power from the Woodward-Pierce area between Lincoln and Maple shortly before noon on June 18. Detroit Edison repair crews worked about an hour in switching in another circuit to restore power.

During the cut-off, Michigan Bell continued uninterrupted service by switching to the huge banks of batteries which can supply emergency power for about 12 hours.

**Have Developed Faster Bullets Than Present Guns Can Handle**

Characteristics and manufacture of subsonic and rifle bullets were explained to Birmingham Rotarians this week by Frank L. Treanor, representative for the Winchester Arms & Ammunition Co.

In the laboratory, we have made bullets that travel 9000 feet per second, but we haven't yet figured out how to make a gun that can fire them," he said.

**List 15 Streets For Road Oiling**

Birmingham city commissioners have approved the hearing of petitions for the oiling of 15 streets which will comprise the city's second road oiling program this season.

Portions of Frank, Abbey, Henry, Warwick, Poppleton, Riventank, Madison, Oakdale, Worth, Ridge, Park and Cummings will receive a two-year oil coat at a cost of 28 cents per front foot to abating property owners.

**Assessment Rolls Confirmed By City**

Assessment rolls for the paving of Pierce between Lincoln and Fourteen Mile, Northlawn between Pierce and Washington, and Southlawn between Pierce and Bates were approved by city commissioners Monday night.

The commission called for the payment of the improvement in three installments and city officials expect the payment to be included in the 1954 paving program.

**News copy submitted early is necessarily given preference, so the "early bird" usually gets the worm.**

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