

# HURRICANE CAUSES TIDE FLOODS LOWER VILLAGE CRASHING TREES DAMAGE

SEPT. 13, 1938

EIGHTY PAGES

## GREAT DAMAGE HERE LARGE AND WRECKED BOATS HOMES, BLOCK HIGHWAYS

Continuous Rain Storm Reaches Its  
Climax When Hurricane Causes  
Greatest Havoc Here In History

Complete Loss In Property  
Damage Still Unknown As  
Owners Start To Repair

400 BOATS IN BAY ARE  
DAMAGED OR SUNK

Lack of Current Affects  
Merchants In All Trades  
Firemen, Police Heroes

After five days of steady rain a tempest struck Port Washington with all its fury late Wednesday afternoon bringing with it a tidal wave that left a million and a half dollars of damage in its wake.

Huge trees were blown down all about the community, blocking streets and cutting off sections such as Sands Point and Manhasset Isle from the rest of the peninsula; roofs were caved in by the falling trees; cottages filled with water and buildings built close to the land were inundated with

water; chimneys blew down; families were marooned in their homes and automobiles covered with water and incapacitated.

The electricity began to go off about three o'clock and within an hour the current was off for good. As a result not only homes but the complete Main street was cut off for shopping. Some of the energetic merchants such as the hardware stores kept their shops open until midnight providing lamps, lanterns, candles, etc., to help out in lighting.

The Port Washington Fire Department formed itself into a first aid corps and worked until early yesterday morning assisting with the gigantic task of relieving the village to its former normalcy.

At the town dock the water rose four feet above the dock. Three large boats came right up on the dock and were saved through the efforts of dockmaster "Jim" Smith while others were tied up after the tide went down. The water carried high over the Main street along the shore until the waters flooded the floor and kept the

chairs bobbing. Guests were taken from the hotel to rowboats for a few minutes and several cars were marooned on the dock.

The yacht club were the focal point of a great deal of the storm's damage.

At the Manhasset Bay Yacht Club the water came up over the terrace then even higher until it filled the pool and climbed to the third steps. Three smaller sailboats and some rowboats were carried with the waves up into the swimming pool and were buffering each other about in the water. Mrs. Rothman remained at the wheelhouse until early the next morning in order that boat owners who were out of town and unable to get to Port Washington could be assured of either the damage or the news of the safety of their boats. Joseph kept his waters ready with hot coffee all night and many of those who had been staying aboard their boats or who had come to view them were forced to remain at the club over night.

The Ketchikaner Yacht Club fared no better than her neighbor. Boats were forced up on the sea wall, on the lawn and against the dock; the latter was a pool of water and without lights and electricity the depleted staff kept working all the night to assist the members.

At the Port Washington the saddest sight of the day came to view as the fury of the storm and the tidal wave carried almost 100 boats either up on the club beach or on the estate beach to the north of the club. On the Estero Beach boats were strewn in their wreckage away up almost to the shore road. Lumber and wreckage and furnishings of the boats covered every foot of the land while cars left by their owners when they rushed off to save their boats were under water, could not be started and had to be abandoned. From the Port Club to the Lewis Pond hotel the damage must have totaled close to half a million dollars.

At the Port Washington Police Station the tide came up 28 inches in the office but the men kept right on working until 3 o'clock in the morning when the Chief ordered those who were working overtime to go home. During the high tide the police cars and several belonging to the police were submerged. Furniture floated around the building and every few minutes someone yelled by sitting for

help. Boats were piling up on their front porches; trees were falling on roofs; wires were coming down, etc., so they wanted to know when the lights would go on or if police would take them out if they stayed in their houses but the police report was from a man who wanted the police to make his landlady give him back his rent, because he had just paid it and he wanted to vacate the premises.

The Sand Point Police Station was covered with water half way up to the ceiling and the men established temporary headquarters on the Hitchcock estate. All their cars were submerged and Lieutenant William Brown's wife and daughter had to seek shelter with neighbors. Nearly 100 trees were down and across the roads in the Sand Point area and for a time the entire community was cut off from all communication as well as being thrown into darkness. Homes along the northwest part of the peninsula were inundated with water.

Release Them To Push Forward

## PORT WASHINGTON AND ITS BIG STORM

Port Washington has seen its biggest storm in years; perhaps this community will never see the like again. It was impossible for the News to cover all the damage this hurricane, with its tidal wave effect caused in this community, since the storm broke to press time, with no power to run its linotype machines from four in the afternoon Wednesday until about seven o'clock Thursday night. However, the News has done the best it could under the circumstance and trusts its readers will overlook any news items not appearing in this issue.

We would like to pay a tribute to the super-human efforts of the members of the Police and Fire Departments for the great work they all performed in this gigantic emergency. No one thought of sleep Wednesday night and all kept at it the next day, saving property where they could, and preventing further damage and inconvenience to the inhabitants. Fortunately no lives were lost in this community during this unheard of experience. For this we should all be very grateful to the two above named departments and all other organizations and individuals who answered the call of service in this great experience.

The Telephone Company also performed its duties in an excellent manner and its operators, linemen, officials, and all down the line, have every reason to feel proud of their organization. The Long Island Lighting Company, perhaps suffering the greatest of all difficulties and damage of any of the utility organizations, worked night and day to bring light and power to the community as soon as possible. The News is especially indebted to this Company for getting power for our presses and linotype machines as promptly as possible last evening, the night before press day. The Long Island Railroad up against many difficulties, saw to it that bus transportation was extended to the commuters in order that they were not delayed too long from their homes, Wednesday night.

All this written very hurriedly, and if we have failed to mention any organization or any other individuals for their heroic service Wednesday, we are sorry, but we do want to convey to the community our belief that we think all Port Washington, its people and organizations, conducted themselves like real heroes during the greatest emergency which this community has ever faced before in its history.



## Village People Appreciate Convenience More Than How

### BOATS ARE REMOVED FROM STREETS HERE

#### Hundreds Put To Work Repairing Roads And Sidewalks

After the waters receded and the wind stopped blowing last week in the north shore, in Albany, the work of cleaning the streets and rebuilding roads, fences etc., started.

The Town and County road men have worked long hours restoring areas that had blown across streets, blocking traffic. The road working volunteer West Washington Fire Department, have been continuously on the go pumping out debris and carrying away from places where they endangered the lives of motorists; police have tried to maintain order and stopped delivery around the boats that had been washed up on the shore and policemen and electric light men have worked with a will to restore power and continue the telephone service.

Many stories of the storm that occurred our attention last week have been pouring into the office and they are so many that which to tell is the question.

Lately for Port Washington there were no families such as reported where the hurricane hit our neighbors down the island, but several people had close calls. One woman who lived in a basement and had recently collected a broken bowl was brought against by Alfred Lockwood and a blond. Paula, first daughter of the famous Maude of the Terrace was shaken with apprehension in the midst of the storm and had to be taken to the hospital. Charlie Hinesworth sitting on the roof of the home heard a call for help, at the same moment that a violent wind, hurricane and all blowing by and he then managed to bring the woman to shore from her boat and the boys saw a raft belonging to a friend heading straight for the rocks and saved her.

The later failure was effected by Walter Koppelman and John Wagner of the Airport when they saw Jack White's Day Star in distress, after trying in many ways to get a launch or a rowboat, none of which they could borrow, they put the old army rule "make it" in order and took the first boat they saw. All night they stayed aboard and in the morning Mr. White was one of the fortunate passengers who still had his boat. Indeed, Roy Maude and Mrs. Maude worked with a will in saving boats and providing property and in fact the whole community turned itself into a fleet of lifeboats.

While the current all boats were tossed themselves in the sea of lumps and rapids they walked the darkened streets with flashlights in their hands, and old and young were called into duty once more for the lucky ones who remained there for nights.

One of the fortunate boats entered the high school where, with the help of all for operating the school classes. Principal William Morris went about the hall serving a potpourri of snacks.

Electricity was used but sparingly for attention, being supplied by the Rockaway branch while the sea here was being reconditioned and at the River place Port firemen again came into an important role when their engine kept the pumps going in order to prevent any chance of an untimely explosion arising. The water department men kept constant vigil to protect the station and the Long Island Railroad ran buses from Great Neck.

Truly sympathetic along the shore suffered most and several had to have their calls transferred to private homes of their employees. The Queens County kept late hours in run the telephone rooms.

At the News Office a paper was prepared at the house and then a few photos were run off at a time as the current came and went. All in all it was a trying experience and one that we will never forget.

The fishing company, through the President Alfred P. Barrett, issued a formal statement explaining the catastrophe experienced in overcoasting the effects of the storm and death.

OFFICE TALK to page four.

# Hundreds Of Boats Damaged In Storm Of Century

1933



Shown above are several places along the shore snapped by the monster of the First of May. 1) Looking toward the Twin Bells from above. 2) Another view of the shoreline near Louis Riel's dock. 3) Marshall's (left) and 4) 5) A boat that was blown up and crashed against the wall of the shore. 6) The largest boat in the bay up on the Mackinac Bay Police dock. 7) The "High Star" on the pier in front of Fisher's and 8) The "On Tar" blown up above the balcony in the town of the Fisher Place in Harbor City.

# Aftermath Of A Hurricane



Top left—Boat washed up on Shore Road. Top right—Boats and wreckage on beachhead near Town Neck. Center left—Trees on home of Robert Evans in Park Avenue. Center right—Boat smashed in to grocery store window on Shore Road. Bottom left—Wreckage of boats and Louis's Dock in Man- hattan Bay. Bottom right—Boat beached against telephone pole on Shore Road.

## Police, Vamps Win Praise For Cleanup Work

250 Tons Were Upgraded By Hurricane, Police Report

SIGHTSEENERS JAM HARBOUR BOARDS

Port Washington Harbor Scenes Feature News

SEP 30 1939

Residents of Port Washington and nearby communities joined the work in heading for the work of village trustees and police, who for three days had work piled without rest to repair damage done by the windstorm and flood which swept Long Island.

So complete was the work done by the various rescue agencies that Port Washington today showed little signs of the recent storm, which has hit the community during the past century. A stray wrecked boat and three, stumps of trees, and signs of unusually high tide along the waterfront alone showed that a hurricane visited the community.

Port Washington police reported yesterday that more than 2,000 telephone calls had been received at the station house the night of the storm. The number of lines searched by the terrible wind was estimated to have been approximately 150.

Proprietors of local yards yesterday reported a list of boats damaged and damaged craft were brought in for repair. Boats lost during the waterfront were crowded with wreckage, all presented, attributed for the past two days of the damage done here which appeared in the metropolitan area.

# Sewer Head Pays Tribute To Port Fire Department

## Pollock Praises Local Firemen For Service During Hurricane

The Port Washington News takes pleasure in printing the following letter from John M. Pollock, commissioner of the Port Washington Sewer District, for it concurs with the feeling all Port Port Washington must have for the great service rendered by the department.

Port Washington Fire Department  
Port Washington, N. Y.  
Gentlemen:

I am taking the liberty of writing this both to you and as an open letter to the press, as I feel it vitally concerns everyone in Port Washington.

After the storm clouds have passed and rehabilitation is well under way, we have time to look back and reflect on things that happened during and after the recent hurricane.

Outstanding in it all was the real work and service performed by the members of the Fire Dept. Voluntary workers, with no thought of remuneration, they went into action when the storm approached its peak, and stayed at work days after the winds and tide had subsided.

Specifically, as Chairman of the P. W. Sewer Commission and on behalf of the other members of that Commission I want to thank the Dept. for the wonderful job they did to keep our plant in operation.

For 28 hours, when electric power had failed; the pumpers of the Dept. kept the sewerage flow down to normal levels in the plant and avoided any backing up in the mains, with its resultant dangers. To the average householder, this may not seem of very great importance; but had not our firemen been on the job, a very different story would be told.

Again, my personal appreciation for a real community job well and ably done.

John M. Pollock  
Chairman, P. W. Sewer Commission