

165 Zoo Reptiles Drown; 2 Saved

Flooding water of Big Creek last night wiped out virtually all of the Cleveland Zoo's outstanding reptile collection.

The loss was termed "irreplaceable" by Director Leonard J. Goss, who said he could not put a monetary figure on the disaster.

Only two of 167 reptiles housed in the basement of the Lion House were saved.

The 10-foot-deep basement was flooded in less than 10 minutes. Although most of the reptiles can swim, they breathe air and complete flooding of the basement drowned them.

Michael Turnauckas, head keeper, and his aides were able to save only two huge Galapagos tortoises. It took four men to carry each of them upstairs.

Seven cranes—large birds—were saved from the same basement.

Turnauckas said losses included two pythons, 18 and 20 feet long; a 15-foot anaconda; a 14-foot king cobra which he called "priceless"; 15 alligators; 10 monitor lizards and a third Galapagos tortoise.

Much of the flood water backed up into the zoo grounds
Continued on Page 13, Column 6

Floods in Ohio

(Details on Page 8)

More than 10,000 persons throughout Ohio were evacuated from flood waters last night. High spots include:

MANSFIELD — Worst flood since 1913 covered some streets with 4 feet of water.

AKRON—Four families, including an expectant mother, rescued.

CANTON—Industry disrupted; Cook Park under 2 feet of water; 123 rescued.

CINCINNATI — All highways into city closed.

SHELBY—Town cut in half by the Black Fork branch of Mohican River.

NEWARK—Rescue boats overturn; one rescuer feared drowned. Water plant shut.

DELAWARE — Sandbags protected Edgar Hall on the Ohio Wesleyan University campus.

WARREN — Waterworks at nearby Newton Falls halted pumping because of too much water; floods surging into plant.

Expansion of Area's Sewer System Seen as Flood Curb

Worse floods are due for Greater Cleveland unless the metropolitan sewer system is expanded, Proctor Noyes, director of the Regional Planning Commission, said last night.

"The community can't keep ducking this issue," Noyes told the Plain Dealer.

"I'm afraid more years will be wasted before anything is done about this serious problem."

Noyes said there was danger of epidemics and pollution from flooding, as well as economic losses to the community.

About 100 million dollars is needed at this time for an expanded sewerage system and flood relief projects, he said.

"The community keeps playing around with this sewer thing and now we're years behind in keeping up with other construction," Noyes commented.

"With a new building boom in five years, where will we be then?"

Noyes said he was not surprised at the flooding at the Cleveland Zoo in Brookside Park.

Urges Check Dams

He predicted worse floods at the zoo in the future, unless corrective measures are accomplished.

A series of check dams in the Big Creek Valley and a catchment basin would hold flood waters out of the zoo and would protect neighboring areas as well, Noyes said.

While it would be a costly project, it should be given consideration, he said.

When he served as planning director for the city, Noyes said he opposed expensive development at the zoo because of its location and the danger of flooding.

He recalled a flood in 1940 or 1941 when some small animals at the zoo were drowned.

Culverts in the zoo area do not have a great enough capacity, he said.

Continuing development in the area has increased the speed of the runoff and will add to flooding danger in coming years, he observed.

The Regional Planning Commission has pointed out the prospects of flooding in some areas, Noyes said, but building development has gone ahead regardless. He mentioned particularly a residential development in one southeastern suburb.

Noyes said he favored establishment of a regional sewer district "because this problem can't be controlled in the county alone."

"This water starts running downhill and piles up and the low areas get drowned out," he said. "The oversize sewers can't be afforded by individual communities, and it would be unfair for them to have to pay all the cost. Some system should be set up that everyone in a drainage basin would have to pay, from the top of the hill down to the lake."



Michael Turnaukas, head reptile keeper at the Cleveland Zoo, with two Galapagos tortoises. They were the only reptiles saved from a flooded basement.

Flood Drowns 165 Zoo Reptiles

2 Rescued as Water Fills Basement

★ From First Page

near Fulton Road S. W. through storm drains. It shot high into the air with what witnesses called a "deafening roar."

Turnaukas got his first inkling of danger when a power lawn mower was catapulted through a heavy double door in the reptile house, he said.

Also lost was an Australian crane believed to be one of only two in captivity in this country. The other is in Chicago.

An ocelot and an African eagle also drowned.

At first it was feared that all of the monkeys which entertained thousands in the summer on "Monkey Island" had drowned in their winter quarters. But it later was learned that the yhad escaped by clinging to the roofs of their cages.

Dr. Goss said the loss was not insured. Insurance rates on zoo animals are prohibitive, he explained.

There was never danged of any animals escaping.

Dr. Goss and Supt. Joseph Cherry were trapped for a time in their office on the first floor of the Lion House.

Two woman clerks, Mrs. June Watts and Mrs. Hazel Fullerton, were rescued by being helped over a fence from the top of a truck.

In addition to its animals, the zoo lost some equipment. An asphalt road was torn up by the force of the water, and



Zoo employe rescues a crane from flooded basement.

Flood Control Dams Now Proving Worth

day, from the top of the hill down to the lake."

3,000 Routed by Floods in Mt. Vernon

★ From First Page

threatened a 30-block area in the southern end of the city, south of the serpentine river.

Power failure crippled the city anew and blotted out lights, telegraph and most telephone communication from about 7:30 p. m. to 11.

Floodwaters began receding late tonight, dropping eight feet by 11:30.

Despite the easing situation, the city will be forced to ration water several days. The flood

3 Die in Floods

Three were killed in the floodwaters covering most of Ohio after five-min rains.

At Venice, near Hamilton, Diana Meeks, 6, drowned when she fell out of a rescue boat. At Salem George Catlin, 39, died of electric shock as he pumped water from his flooded basement. At South Lebanon John Tucker, 17, drowned as he jumped for a truck evacuating his family, missed and was swept away.

covered the water treatment plant. Typhoid and other diseases are a threat.

Household water taps will be opened at half-hour intervals only three times daily—at 8 a. m., noon and 8 p. m.

All schools have been closed for the rest of the week. The W. High Street Bridge, carrying Ohio Rt. 3 and U.S. Rt. 36 westward, was condemned.

All grocery stores, super-

Now Proving Worth

By JOHN BEABER
Plain Dealer Staff Writer
NEW PHILADELPHIA, O., Jan. 21—Muskingum Conservancy District officials tonight said flooding conditions were bad today, but they could have been much worse.

"We know there would have been extremely heavy damage had it not been for the dam system today," Bryce Browning, executive secretary of the district, said tonight.

"While today's situation could have been more serious, it doesn't compare with the 1913 floods," he said.

In 1913, Ohio suffered a gen-

Boats Rescue 70 Persons in Valley View

★ From First Page

At 10 p. m. a dump truck plunged into the canal. The driver, Carl Burk, 64, a watchman for the Simonelli Trucking Co., scrambled to safety. Unverified was a report of another truck in the canal.

One of the boats brought Melvin Shotzberger, 30, of 3300 Murray Road. He carried his daughter, Susan, 20 months. His wife was in St. Luke's Hospital. She delivered another daughter Sunday. He said waters were lapping at his doorstep.

Two school children, Wanda and James Batterbee, 14 and 13, of 6339 Canal Road, never made it home from school. They were housed at the high school for the night.

Perhaps the youngest would-be rescue worker was Wayne Wheatley, 9, of 9409 Rockside

eral statewide flood that took 500 lives and caused property damage estimated at more than 300 million dollars.

"The dams and reservoirs that are holding back today's heavy rains are designed to take care of flooding conditions that are 37 1/2 percent greater than those in 1913," he added.

"Mount Vernon, hard hit by today's flood, is in the district, but lies above the reservoirs and in the headwaters where it receives little benefit or protection," Browning said.

He added that recent studies indicated the cost of a system there would be too great to be practical. "However, now that may change," he said.

Browning described another major flood in 1937 as one that did not become a general flood throughout Ohio. Pittsburgh and other sections south of it along the Ohio River were hardest hit.

"In 1937, reservoirs were flooded and natural obstructions did little to keep back the water. Partially completed dams were open and could not hold back the water, either," Browning said.

"Roads and valleys along the major rivers were covered by high waters," he added. Muskingum dams were completed in 1938.

Frank Hollingsworth, chief hydrologist with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, compared today's flood waters with those in January 1952.

"In 1952, water reached 8.02 29.50 at Zanesville and 11.77 feet at Newcomerstown. That compares with 7.74 feet at New Philadelphia today, 17.62 at Zanesville and six feet at Newcomerstown," he said.

"However, today's figures are rising rapidly. We do not expect the 1952 highs to be exceeded in lower areas, although they probably will be in eastern

to additional to its animals, the zoo lost some equipment. An asphalt road was torn up by the force of the water, and Dr. Goss described the grounds as a "complete shambles" with large logs and other debris scattered around.

The director praised Turnaukas for quick work in helping save many animals, along with Walter Russell, a stationary engineer, and Robert Meyer, maintenance man.

Explaining the "irreplaceable" label on some of the reptiles, Dr. Goss said they had grown up in captivity and had become used to it. It is virtually impossible to buy such a full-grown specimen, he said.

Some of them had cost more than \$1,000 each when they were bought many years ago.

Heating System Falls

A threat to surviving animals remained in the breakdown of lion house heating system. Large apes in that building and some hoofed animals outside were described as particularly susceptible to chills.

Zoo employees planned to work through the night operating portable heaters and renewing straw for warmth.

Deputy Police Inspector Chester I. Burnett obtained four heaters from the Maddock & Day Co., 8201 Almira Avenue S. W. Constant attention would be necessary, however, because of the possibility that they might give off fumes.

One of several porcupines housed in the basement of the monkey house was freed and scurried up a tree. Fate of others was unknown.

Police Lt. Edward Becker said the new pachyderm house had four inches of water in it, but that pumps had been able to handle it so far. The new bird house was not affected.

With Lt. Becker at the scene were Sgt. Harold Stuckey and Patrolman Clifford Filkins of Mounted Troop A.