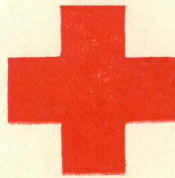


VANPORT CITY FLOOD

MAY 30, 1948

PRELIMINARY DISASTER COMMITTEE REPORT



**PORTLAND-MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHAPTER
AMERICAN RED CROSS
PORTLAND, OREGON**

360

COMMITTEE

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RELIEF

Portland-Multnomah County Chapter

May 26, 1948

Chairman.....	E. A. Valentine
Vice Chairman.....	Ernest Brewer
Executive Officer and Vice Chairman.....	C. A. Warren
Assistant Executive Officer.....	G. E. Mumford
Survey.....	E. C. Lesser
Survey.....	William Gietz
Rescue.....	O. A. Stevenson
Medical.....	Dr. Adolph Weinzirl
Nursing.....	Helen Geary
Shelter.....	C. E. Oliver
Food & Supply.....	L. K. Greer
Canteen.....	Isabella Gould
Clothing.....	Allen Meier
Clothing.....	Harold Miller
Transportation & Warehousing.....	C. A. Olsen
Communications.....	I. D. Winslow
Radio.....	A. N. Davis
Information & Registration.....	John Brady
Public Information.....	A. J. Larson
Public Information.....	Kay Larson
Veterans Liaison.....	Major Paul Hathaway
Volunteer Services.....	Mrs. Alfred J. Herman
Chapter Manager.....	H. E. Berentson

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
PORTLAND-MULTNOMAH CHAPTER

Portland, Oregon
August 10, 1948

To: Mr. Arnold W. Groth, Chapter Chairman
From: Mr. E. A. Valentine, Disaster Chairman
Subject: Vanport City Flood, May 30, 1948

The attached preliminary report of the Vanport City Flood does not include very much statistical data but is more in the nature of a running account of the activities of the Disaster Committee. Statistics will be covered under a separate report. Reports of the various Sub-Committees and Volunteer Services is also attached, all of which I trust you will find of interest.

Very truly yours,

E. A. Valentine
Chairman Disaster Committee

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

Office of the President

June 21, 1948

Dear Mr. Valentine:

The reputation for efficiency earned by the volunteers of the Portland-Multnomah County Chapter in the recent floods is an exceptionally good one. The excellence of this service is particularly pleasing when one considers the unusual conditions surrounding the destruction of the Vanport housing area.

An important part of a successful volunteer program is the leadership. In Portland the direction has been of the best. I congratulate you and the members of the Disaster Committee on unusual devotion to duty during the early days of the disaster and on your continuing supervision of the flood relief activities.

This proud record again renews our faith in the importance and efficiency of our Red Cross.

Sincerely yours,

Basil O'Connor
President

Mr. E. A. Valentine
Chairman, Disaster Committee
Portland-Multnomah County Chapter
American Red Cross
Portland, Oregon

REPORT OF DISASTER CHAIRMAN

A conference was held at the Oregon State Capitol, Salem, Oregon, on April 19th and 20th to discuss the respective responsibilities, functions and procedures of the various departments of the State and Federal Governments and the Red Cross, that might be involved in the event of a disaster emergency within the state of Oregon so that proper coordination might be secured among departments of government and with the Red Cross; and the subject of cooperation between Red Cross Chapters was discussed. In attendance were:

For the State:

State Coordinator
Adjutant General
Superintendent, State Police
Engineer, State Highway Commission
Secretary, State Board of Health
Administrator, State Department of Public Welfare
Director, Department of Agriculture

For the Federal Agencies

District Engineer for Oregon, U. S. Engineers
Representative of the U. S. Coast Guard
Representative of the U. S. Weather Bureau

For Red Cross;

Assistant Manager, Pacific Area
Director Disaster Service, Pacific Area
Disaster Chairman, of all Oregon County Chapters, their assistants and Chapter Managers

Two full days were devoted to the discussion and the result was a better understanding of the various responsibilities, possibilities and limitations

of governmental agencies and of Red Cross; a better understanding of disaster plans of both government and Red Cross.

In the address of the U. S. District Engineer, reference was made to previous floods of the Columbia River and particularly to the flood of 1894. Weather conditions during the winter and spring of 1947-48 appeared to be similar to that preceding the flood of 1894, therefore the disaster plan of the Portland-Multnomah Chapter was reviewed and brought up-to-date; the organization perfected and strengthened; preliminary steps taken to be prepared in the event an emergency should arise. This Chapter had never had a disaster, and flood had never been given serious consideration, however during World War II the Chapter had a place in O. C. D. and were prepared for that emergency, so in reviewing the plan at this time the War time plan was reviewed and portions of it were adopted.

The Columbia River rises in the Canadian Rockies and flows generally south and west through Montana and Idaho, thence generally west between Oregon and Washington to the Pacific Ocean. It is fed by many streams and several large rivers along its entire length. Normally the snow that falls during winter and early spring is dry, deep and packed, and by late spring and early summer has gradually melted back to the 5000 to 8000 foot elevations, but, in the season 1947-1948 the snow came late and was deep and wet; it continued to snow into late spring and so by early summer it was still at the 2000 to 3000 foot elevation. Then the weather turned quite warm and the snow melted rapidly with the result that the Columbia and some of its larger tributaries were in flood along the entire

course. Some 36 counties in four states were involved.

The most dense population on the Columbia River is in Multnomah County, of which Portland is the principal city, and Clark County, Washington, of which Vancouver is the principal city and across the river from Portland. The City of Portland is also on the Willamette River which joins the Columbia below Vancouver. When the Columbia is in flood the Willamette is backed up so that the elevation of the Willamette nearly equals that of the Columbia at the crest of the flood. The Columbia river bank is built up with an artificial dirt dike to hold back a flood crest of over 30 feet.

Vanport City was an Emergency Federal Housing project built on low ground behind the above mentioned dike located between Portland and Vancouver in Multnomah County, Oregon. During the war the population numbered approximately 60,000 people engaged in war work, principally in ship building. It was nearly a self contained city with stores, schools, churches, fire department, hospital, police, etc., and at the time of the flood contained the second largest university in Oregon. The houses were temporary wooden structures, four family units, and the tenants were those people unable to find homes in Portland or Vancouver, and ex-service men attending the university.

In the lowland east from Vanport behind the dike for a distance of about twelve miles is a drainage district containing many suburban homes, small truck gardens, small dairies, the Portland Air Port, the Oregon National Guard Air Base, four golf clubs, the race track, trailer camps and several industries. Along the river were two yacht clubs, small

boat builders and many house boats. In this area were about six hundred homes and a resident population of about two thousand people.

On Monday morning, May 24th, Red Cross received their first request to assist in evacuating a family from flooded lowland bordering on Columbia Slough. Upon consulting the U. S. Weather Bureau it was indicated that within a week's time the river would crest at about thirty feet. The U. S. Engineers were then consulted and it was determined that with a crest of thirty feet at Vancouver there were several critical points to watch, the two most important to our Chapter being at Peninsula Drainage Districts Nos. 1 and 2. This meant that on the dike by Monday evening, May 31st in the vicinity of the Portland Yacht Club that there would be a freeboard of 2.5 feet which would endanger the area from Union Avenue to Troutdale (the so called "Valley"), a distance of about 10 miles and containing about 600 homes; and the dike to the west of Vanport would have a freeboard of 2.9 feet. A daily check with the Weather Bureau and the U. S. Engineers was made from then on as to river conditions and the condition of the dikes.

On Wednesday evening, May 26th the Disaster Committee was called together at the Chapter House for the first meeting. The situation was explained and the first steps were taken towards preparedness. All sub committees were alerted and, Monday being a holiday, all were requested to remain in the city and to be available for instant mobilization. The mayor of Portland and the County Sheriff had been contacted that morning. The Portland City Council went on the alert and a Disaster Co-ordinator was appointed. At the evening meeting said coordinator, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Sheriff were in at-

tendance and the responsibilities of city, county government, and Red Cross were discussed briefly. That evening the "Ham" radio association was alerted and their mobile units were ordered into position. Arrangements were made to have all incoming telephone calls for Red Cross to clear through an exchange for routing to either the Chapter Manager or the Disaster Chairman. Several calls were received during the night and acted upon.

Early Thursday afternoon, May 27th the Chapter Disaster Chairman discussed the situation with the Pacific Area Director of Disaster Services by telephone and it was decided that that official should proceed to Portland. He arrived Friday evening. Others of the Pacific Area Staff were alerted and started for Portland, 50 hotel reservations were made for Red Cross staff in anticipation of a mobilization of workers in the area.

The commanding officer of the Coast Guard, with headquarters at Port Townsend, Washington, was then asked to send in the Coast Guard and to activate the Coast Guard Auxiliary, both the off-shore and the on-shore Port Security Patrol. The officer in charge and the first unit arrived early Friday afternoon and from then on through the emergency, close contact was kept between the Coast Guard and the Red Cross. Blankets and cots were furnished and mess arrangements were made. Expenditures for both the Regulars and Auxiliary were guaranteed and later the crew of the amphibious plane were served by the Washington County Chapter at Hillsboro, Oregon at the request of Portland-Multnomah Chapter.

Additional telephones were installed in the Chapter House and the various disaster sub-committees were being built up and mobilized. A committee meeting was held in the eve-

ning; plans were discussed and supplies checked. In the early evening the Disaster Co-ordinator of Portland advised that the city fire department was evacuating 11 families from their homes on Miles Street which is on the Willamette River in South West Portland. The Motor Corps assisted in transporting people to homes of relatives and friends. The chairman of the Information and Registration Committee, assisted by Home Service workers, registered the families and the Transportation Committee assisted the firemen in moving household effects to a near by warehouse. It was learned that other families in the county were moving from low ground, and so an appeal was made by radio and press for all who had moved or would move in the future during the emergency, to register such moves with the Red Cross.

The Disaster Chairman spent the night at the Chapter House and a few families phoned in their information in response to the above mentioned call, and during the night some welfare inquiries were received by "Ham" Radio operators and were of such nature that the replies were immediately given. The Amateur Radio Relay League network was being established.

On Friday, May 28th, 17 more families were moved from Miles Street; registered, transported and their belongings warehoused. The Federal Housing Authority moved some families from the Fulton Housing Area, along the Willamette River, to their Guilds Lake area, both within the city limits. A few families were now moving off of Sauvie Island, which is partly in Columbia County and partly in Multnomah County; and some arrived in Portland and applied to the Chapter for assistance. One family was sent to a hotel and the others to Guilds Lake. Red Cross

then sent workers to Guilds Lake and an office was set up by the Shelter Committee. The Chapter House was now a scene of bustling activity. In the evening (Friday, May 28th) all of the Disaster Sub-Committees and all of the Volunteer Services were put on a 24 hour basis, all posts being manned; the radio stations were in full operation at the Chapter House and the Canteen was a particularly busy department around the clock. Additional supplies were being moved in and more volunteers were being added to the various staffs. The Disaster Chairman took over all departments and the Chapter House; the Chapter Staff moved over, doubling up, to make available space for the Disaster Committee. Three offices were reserved for liaison representatives of the Federal Government, the State Coordinator and the City and County Coordinators. A radio station was opened alongside the county Sheriff radio dispatcher which proved to be a most important contact. A request to set up a station alongside the City Police Radio was declined.

An important meeting was held Friday evening at the Chapter House to confer with the County and Federal Housing Authorities to discuss the situation of Vanport. In attendance were all of the Chapter Disaster Sub-Committee Chairmen, the Chapter Chairman, the Chapter Manager, the State Disaster Coordinator, the Chairman of Multnomah County Commissioners, the Multnomah County Sheriff and his assistant, a nurse from the office of the County Health Office and a representative of the Federal Housing Authority. The responsibilities of county government and of the Housing Authority were discussed, as well as the responsibilities and the position of Red Cross were explained. The possibilities of assistance from

the State of Oregon were discussed. A tentative plan of evacuation was agreed upon including the medical side of the question, and, briefly it was agreed that the Federal Housing Authority and the Sheriff would warn and evacuate the residents of Vanport and would bring them to shelters designated by the Red Cross; in this emergency to the Grammar Schools (not the high schools) on the East side of the Willamette river and particularly in the Peninsula area were designated.

Saturday, May 29th, steps were taken to alert facilities that might be called upon in the event of a catastrophe. For example, food wholesalers, milk distributors, warehouses, bakeries, transport, medical supply houses, other welfare agencies, ambulance and many others.

Sunday being Decoration Day the following Monday was a holiday and many people were leaving the city over the long week end. That evening a meeting was held with the authorities from Portland School District No. 1. An agreement was reached for the use of the schools; reimbursement to be made by Red Cross for fumigation and reconditioning of any damages sustained. Plans were laid for mass feeding and sleeping, and the general administration of each school; registration, the medical phase, sanitation and general house keeping—all angles were discussed and agreed to. A more detailed report of shelters is covered in the accompanying report of the Shelter Chairman, but it might be of interest at this point to explain that prior to World War II all schools, churches, lodge halls, public buildings and other large buildings had been surveyed with a view to their use in the event of an emergency. This survey showed the available floor

space and an estimate made of the possible number of cots that could be placed therein; the toilet and bathing facilities; the cooking and feeding facilities; the name, address and phone numbers of each custodian. This survey proved to be up to date and was invaluable.

All Disaster and Chapter volunteer services were now fully manned and working smoothly, 24 hours a day, meeting all situations efficiently as they arose. The State Disaster Coordinator had now moved in and was constantly on hand, and his council was of inestimable value. Boy Scout messengers were assigned, working from 8 AM to 10 PM. (and eating in the canteen every hour on the hour). Junior Red Cross members were assigned jobs and their services throughout the emergency were most valuable. The Survey Committee members were patrolling the dikes and their frequent reports kept headquarters fully informed. "Ham" operators with their mobile stations were in close touch at all times. Constant liaison was kept with the Sheriff and the City Coordinator.

Saturday night sending lunches, coffee and drinking water to the dike workers started. This consisted of sandwiches, coffee, doughnuts, a bar of chocolate, a package of gum and a package of cigarettes for each ration. Food was sent out in units of 50 to 300 to designated units of workers. In addition to the dike workers in Multnomah County two hot meals a day were sent to 300 dike workers on Sauvie Island—their being 200 civilians and 100 Oregon National Guardsmen. The feeding of the dike workers continued until the following Thursday night. All of the cigarettes, over 1,075,000, 5000 cigars and most of the chocolate bars and gum were donated by Portland wholesale merchants.

Frequent press and radio releases of Red Cross activities were being issued and after the break at Vanport one Radio Station eliminated all commercial matter from their broadcasts and devoted their entire time for several days to bulletins regarding the emergency. Their cooperation in that regard was of tremendous value to the relief work and for general information to the public.

On Sunday afternoon, May 30th, the Disaster Chairman and Chapter Manager accompanied the Area Disaster Supervisor to a 4:00 PM conference at the U. S. Engineer's office. In attendance were the Commanding General of Fort Lewis representing the Commanding General of VI Army; the Division Engineer, the District Engineer and their staffs, including one field officer designated as liaison officer with Red Cross.

During the discussion of the matter of possible housing of evacuees if and when Vanport was evacuated, and preliminary planning for space, word was received by the Disaster Chairman at 4:26 PM from the Disaster Vice Chairman that the Surveyor on duty on the dike near Vanport, that the dike had gone out at about 4:12 PM. He reported that there appeared to be a break of about 100 yards and that the water from Smith Lake was pouring into Vanport in waves of considerable force; that people were "milling around" and starting to leave but that there was a pretty heavy traffic jam both on Denver avenue and inside Vanport City. As soon as this had been confirmed by the U. S. Engineers, the Disaster Chairman and Chapter Manager returned to the Chapter House. The Multnomah County Sheriff was at the Chapter House to confirm the news of the break. He advised that in accordance with the previously arranged plan

street car buses had been ordered and that the first ones had arrived within 12 minutes, but that due to the traffic jam and the confusion, his limited force was unable to handle the situation alone and requested assistance from the State. Thereupon the State Disaster Coordinator communicated with the Governor who in turn declared a limited emergency, thus making available all state facilities.

It had been agreed that in this contingency that the Red Cross was not to engage in Rescue but would confine their activities to Shelter, Food, Clothing and Supplemental Medical Aid, Registration and Information and the normal welfare activities of Red Cross in disaster. The Sheriff was advised to send all evacuees to the schools on the East side of Portland, fanning out over the Peninsula District first. A request was immediately made to all of the stage and Taxi Cab companies to dispatch buses and cabs to Vanport and take the evacuees to the East side schools, but unfortunately the request was not clearly understood by all drivers and within an hour busloads of people were arriving at the Chapter House, which is on the West side of the Willamette river. And, to add to the confusion at the Chapter House, hundreds of people arrived to volunteer their services as well as relatives and friends seeking information of evacuees.

A check with the Coast Guard found that they and their auxiliary were on the job launching boats at Vanport, and a check with the City Coordinator of Disaster Services found that the Portland Firemen with 65 boats with outboard motors were also launching their boats from Denver Ave. Within an hour Vanport was a lake and many people had taken refuge on housetops and were rescued by boat before nightfall, includ-

ing one of the two caseworkers on duty in the Chapter Home Service office in Vanport. The chapter sedan was lost along with about 400 other autos. The other caseworker, using her own car, drove through water evacuating six people, including an invalid.

Immediately that the news broke our telephone switchboard was swamped. Thanks to the efficiency of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company, within one hour, 15 additional phones with private numbers were installed and working, and within another hour an additional switchboard and additional trunks were in operation. Also within two hours time a telephone teletype was installed at the Chapter House, and one additional Western Union incoming teletype and one teletype direct to Pacific Area Headquarters were in operation. The "Ham" Radio network was working smoothly and the message center functioning efficiently. Not enough can be said in praise of the men and women of the communication section whose tireless efforts and devotion to duty so greatly added to the efficient operation.

The Oregon National Guard Armory had been opened by request to Red Cross on Saturday evening. Blankets, cots, tents from the National Guard and bedrolls from the U. S. Forestry service were soon accumulated there after the break. These supplies came under the jurisdiction of the Transportation Committee and were issued on Warehouse Requisitions upon orders of the Shelter and Clothing Committees. All other supplies were handled by the Food Committee, other than clothing and medical supplies.

On Monday morning, May 31st, at 2 AM a report meeting was held to summarize the operations to that hour

and to outline plans for future operations. In attendance were all of the sub-committee chairmen and their assistants, the Pacific Area Director of Disaster Service, the Chapter Manager, the State Co-ordinator, the VI Army Liaison Officer, a representative of the City Coordinator and reporters of the two Portland newspapers. It was evident that we had met the first shock of the emergency in a satisfactory manner. That our plan had worked. Our first survey of all shelters that had been covered up to that hour divulged that there were approximately 4000 people on hand. It had been estimated by the Federal Housing Authority that there were about 18,500 people registered and living in Vanport, so with only 4000 in shelters naturally the question arose as to what had become of the other 14,500 people. It was feared that there were heavy casualties, but on the other hand it was known that many people had left Vanport before the flood, and from reports received from various sources that the people of Portland had simply opened up their homes and taken in the unfortunates. This became quite evident later on in the day and to the greater honor to the citizens of Portland no distinction was made as to race or color. Living in Vanport their were about 900 Japanese, 5000 Negroes and 12600 White. It was now reported that colored people were in white homes and white people in colored homes, and there was no segregation in any of the shelters.

By Monday evening, May 31st, Red Cross workers were arriving from all parts of the United States. On Monday afternoon the Disaster Chairman made arrangements with the city commissioner in charge, for the use of the Civic Auditorium by Red Cross indefinitely. A battery of telephones,

switchboards and furniture were hastily installed. The basement was set up for the Multnomah County operation, the south wing for the Regional operation and a canteen was opened in the basement. A day or two later a nursery was in operation in the north wing. By 9 PM Monday evening people were being registered at the Auditorium, National Headquarters Staff assuming charge. During the week the various sub-committees of the Portland-Multnomah Disaster Committee, the volunteers, were relieved by the National Staff, but the individual volunteers carried on under their supervision.

The Chapter was simply deluged by offers of assistance from individuals and Chapters throughout the United States. All offers from Chapters were acknowledged but little assistance was needed. In those instances where cooperation from neighboring Chapters was solicited a hearty and prompt response was forthcoming and we are grateful for their cooperation. It was not possible to avail ourselves of the services of all who volunteered but their offers were and are now deeply appreciated. The citizens of Portland were magnificent in their response to the emergency and the neighborly spirit was inspiring.

To the individual volunteer worker, whose tireless self-sacrifice and devotion to duty has come the welcome words of commendation of president Basil O'Connor of the American National Red Cross—"This proud record again renews our faith in the importance and efficiency of our Red Cross."

Reports of a number of the sub-committees is attached and speak for themselves, telling more in detail of their activities but a few supplementary comments will be of interest.

SURVEY: The chairman of the

Survey Committee and his assistants were out of the city and it was necessary to recruit an entire new committee. Fortunately a former surveyor of the San Francisco County Chapter was residing in Portland and volunteered his services. He was assigned to the critical area along the dike and constantly patrolled the area which was approximately 12 miles along the Columbia River and the Vanport Area. He put in long hours for over 10 days, keeping Headquarters constantly advised of the developments. He was the first to report the break at Vanport, also the break at Denver Avenue and Union Avenue. His assistance was also valuable to the Sheriff in warning people in affected areas; he assisted canteen workers in delivery of food to the dike workers, and in directing people to the shelters in the first hours of evacuation.

The other surveyors were on duty at Headquarters and were sent out on special missions and also assisted other committees in their operations.

TRANSPORTATION: The chairman of the Transportation Committee was also out of the state so a substitute was appointed on Wednesday, May 26th. Being experienced in transportation and warehousing problems his foresight and special talent were invaluable. He was ably assisted by others who had had no previous briefing but acquitted themselves admirably. A men's motor corps was organized to relieve the Women's Motor Corps, and drove 48 hours over the first week-end.

CLOTHING: While dry clothing was issued to evacuees at shelters from Red Cross supplies, and from clothing donated by neighbors in the vicinity of shelters, individual emergency requisitions were issued from the Chapter House and at the shelters during the first days. The most out-

standing job done by this committee was the preparation of a price list of over 300 items of clothing and bedding to be used as a guide for those issuing emergency requisitions from the Auditorium. It was printed and in the hands of all workers by Tuesday morning, June 1st and was a most valuable document.

FOOD: The Food Committee had supervision of the Canteen Service and their cooperation resulted in a most efficient operation. It was due to the Chairman's foresight that the bakeries and wholesale houses were standing by for the emergency. When the Canteen went on 24 hour service a Refrigerator Milk Truck was at the Chapter House constantly.

The supply room was constantly stocked with staples and household and personal items at all times. Individuals, families, the shelters and the dike crews were served without a break.

SHELTER: The Shelter Committee were new to their job, but were former Red Cross workers with overseas service and their Chairman an experienced Red Cross worker. They rose to the occasion in a masterful manner and acquitted themselves with credit.

MEDICAL & NURSING: The Chairman of the Medical Committee was the oldest committee member, and during World War II was the Medical Director of O.C.D., Portland Metropolitan Area, and therefor was well acquainted with Red Cross which was at his service in O.C.D.

The rescue squad manned the First Aid Medical Cart and served the Sheriff and Salvage Crews at the scene of the disaster for two weeks. They rendered first aid, dispensed drinking water to the workers, and assisted the County Coroner in his duties.

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION: The Chairman of the commit-

tee is an experienced Red Cross worker with overseas service. He had as his assistants Chapter Home Service workers, workers of other welfare agencies and former experienced Chapter Volunteer workers. From his experience in this disaster he has made a valuable recommendation for a change in the organization and designation of this committee. Attention is called to his report attached.

PURCHASE & SUPPLY: This committee was not activated in this emergency, each committee making their own commitment and recording them with the Chapter Cashier

It should be recorded and admitted that some mistakes were made, human errors in times of stress. But, in the final analysis, it can be honestly said that the victims of the Vanport City flood were well served; none went without clothing, medical aid, a place to sleep with a roof over their head and a hot meal—in fact some people did not even miss a meal.

There were weaknesses that emerged and for what they may be worth to other chapters who have never been so unfortunate as to have a disaster they are set forth below:

1. Neglected to obtain a proclamation from the Mayor.

2. A good public information section was not perfected.

3. Volunteer Special Services were not properly coordinated.

4. Disaster Headquarters should have been located away from the Chapter House.

5. A good system should be established to handle offers of outside volunteer assistance and preferably at a location away from Disaster Headquarters.

6. A good communications section should be established. A message center to screen and route all incoming and out-going messages.

7. Each sub-committee chairman should have several alternates for proper relief after long hours.

8. There should always be an alternate disaster headquarters.

9. Each sub-chairman should have a secretary to maintain a chronologic log so that alternates can keep abreast of progressive action.

10. Red Cross must consistently point out to governmental officials that local government has positive responsibility in disasters.

11. A frequent bulletin should be issued of information for all sub-chairmen and services.

12. An office manager is most important.

13. Sufficient telephones are vital. Private outgoing only phone with private number should be available for all sub-chairman. Experienced PBX operators necessary on switchboard.

14. All food purchases for both shelters and canteen should be consolidated in one purchasing section.

15. In a large medical problem all medical supplies should be procured through a central purchasing section.

16. A Red Cross person should be definitely in charge of each shelter.

17. If any independently operated shelters exist it should be clearly understood that they are not to be designated as Red Cross shelters unless they immediately come under Red Cross supervision and responsibility.

Naturally it is hoped that we may never experience another disaster but to be prepared for any emergency and to be able to function with greater efficiency, the possibilities of organizing on a more "streamlined" basis is being explored.

For example, consideration is being given to the suggestion that four main sections be superimposed on the existing organization, each section with several sub-sections including the Vol-

unteer Services, with the view to minimizing the administrative details for the Disaster Chairman. One section to cover all matters pertaining to Personnel; another to cover all matters pertaining to Information; a third section devoted entirely to Operations and a fourth to Supply.

This will entail a complete reorganization and a new plan of operation. As soon as the study is completed a new Disaster Preparedness and Relief Manual will be prepared for distribution and agreements entered into with others with whom Red Cross operates in a disaster.

REPORT ON OPERATIONS OF SUBCOMMITTEE FOR MEDICAL AID

INTRODUCTION

As you are already aware, your chairman for medical aid attended the Disaster Committee meeting held Saturday morning, May 29th, and Saturday afternoon of the same date. At these meetings a distinct impression was gained that the flood situation constituted a particularly serious threat to Vanport and that consideration of the safety of the residents was imperative but that responsibility for safety and welfare in that area was clearly a responsibility of the County government. Accordingly, no steps were taken to organize for a medical aid service at that time.

Your chairman also attended a meeting of the Disaster Committee early in the afternoon of May 30th at which time the impression was gained that the Multnomah County Chapter of the American Red Cross was contemplating assuming responsibility for a mass operation designed to remove the citizens of Vanport to safety. The understanding was also gained that final plans were contingent upon the outcome of a further meeting of the Disaster Committee to be held at

In closing the preliminary report, your Disaster Chairman wishes to express his thanks with deep appreciation for all those who, through their self sacrifices and untiring devotion to duty, did such an outstanding job under the tremendous strain placed upon them. To the volunteer workers, the Chapter Staff; the many people of Portland who donated their time and facilities; the other agencies, public, private and governmental, thanks for the willing and cheerful cooperation. It was a pleasure and a privilege to have served with them all.

about 4:00 p. m. that afternoon and to be attended by representatives of the Sixth Army who were scheduled to arrive from Fort Lewis and who might assist in planning for feeding and housing of Vanport evacuees. In view of the possibility of a mass operation, it seemed desirable to have in attendance at the 4:00 o'clock meeting a representative of the Multnomah County Medical Society; a representative who might take charge of obtaining and distributing medical supplies; a person to represent the hospitals of Portland in arranging for hospital services; and someone who might direct the mobilization of ambulance services. It was also recognized that nursing services would be important and, fortunately, Mrs. Geary, chairman for Red Cross nursing services, was on hand.

Accordingly, I communicated with Mr. Roscoe Miller, Executive Secretary of the Multnomah County Medical Society, informing him of the situation and requesting that he report immediately to the Chapter House. Also, I communicated with Mr. Horace V. Bell who had served as Assis-

tant Chief of the Emergency Medical Services for Civilian Defense in Multnomah County during the war and who would be able to locate and make use of the remaining Civilian Defense supplies, asking him to report to the Chapter House immediately. It was impossible to communicate with Doctor Thomas L. Meador, Portland City Health Officer, or with Doctor Sidney Hansen, Multnomah County Health Officer. I did succeed in reaching Doctor Harold M. Erickson, Oregon State Health Officer, and asked him to report to the Chapter House in order to give attention to the public health aspects of any mass operation that might be undertaken. Mr. William Zimmerman, Business Manager for the University of Oregon Medical School hospitals and clinics, also was called but was not asked to report to the Chapter House. He was however, asked to remain available in case of need. Mr. Dean Webster also was called, notified concerning the possible emergency, and was asked to remain available in case of need to mobilize ambulance services. He was selected for this post because he had charge of ambulance services under the Multnomah County Civilian Defense program. He was not asked to report to the Chapter House.

The anticipated 4:00 p.m. meeting at which it was hoped decisions with respect to possible evacuation of Vanport would be made failed to materialize and at approximately 5:00 p.m., with Mr. Miller, Mr. Bell, Doctor Erickson and Mrs. Geary present at the Chapter House, word was brought that the dike protecting Vanport had broken, that the area was flooded, that the citizens were making their escapes as best they might that conditions were chaotic and that traffic was in disorder in the Vanport area. On the basis of this information, the persons involved in the medical aid committee recognized that planning with

respect to an orderly evacuation was now out of the question and that we must await some word as to how the entire situation was to be consolidated before a decision could be reached as to the medical services that would be needed. Presently word reached the committee that refugees were being instructed to go to the nearest schools where they would be given shelter for the night. With this information, it became clear that the problem of medical aid would resolve itself into providing the services of physicians and nurses together with nurse aids and first aid personnel at the various shelters during the night. Also, it was recognized that medical supplies would be needed at the shelters.

Very soon additional volunteers for all services as well as refugees from the flooded area began appearing at the Chapter House in large numbers with conditions becoming seemingly quite chaotic. The telephone exchange at the Chapter House was swamped with calls and it immediately became impossible to use the telephones. In order to function, the medical aid committee left the Chapter House in part, with Doctor Erickson, Mr. Bell and Mr. Miller going to the Oregon State Board of Health in order to use free telephone lines and with Doctor Weinzirl going to the offices of the Medical Society in the Medical Dental Building.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr. Miller assumed responsibility for obtaining the services of physicians to meet the emergency. Accomplishments consisted of assigning physicians to report to the first aid station established on the Denver Avenue fill by the Stevens disaster car and of assigning physicians to report to all known shelters where refugees were congregating for the night. This work took most of the evening and contin-

ued well beyond midnight. These physicians assigned to shelters were also asked to make rounds again at the shelters the following morning.

NURSING SERVICES

Mrs. Geary assigned nurses on a voluntary basis to serve in the shelters night and day. In connection with the nursing service, nurse aids were similarly assigned. During the first night first aiders were also assigned but this was not continued.

SUPPLIES

Mr. Bell, making use of the transportation facilities of the Chapter, succeeded in getting emergency first aid supplies into the shelters during the evening of May 30th and the morning of May 31st. In addition, much in the way of supplementary supplies was purchased and moved to the shelters. These supplies included sedatives, analgesics, cathartics and materials for baby feeding including nursing bottles and nipples, canned milk and corn syrup. Quantities of paper diapers were also obtained and moved into the shelters. Standard feeding formulas were designed and made available to the nurses in the shelters for their guidance in preparing the feeding formulas.

During the night Doctor Erickson, accompanied by Miss Edna Venberg, the latter of the San Francisco office of the American Red Cross who is a nurse, made the rounds of all known shelters for the purpose of inspecting them, and for the purpose of meeting any unmet needs and with a view to getting a general picture of the shelter situation from a medical and nursing standpoint. This inspection took much of the night.

HOSPITAL AND AMBULANCE SERVICES

During the night of the disaster, as the situation began to clarify itself, it became apparent that ambulance and hospital services as well as first

aid services were not primary needs. The hospitals were notified by Mr. Zimmerman regarding the sudden flood and they took in the relatively few persons who were in need of hospital care. Mr. Webster reported to the volunteer transportation service of the County Red Cross Chapter where he worked during the night, occasionally dropping in at the offices of the medical service to see if anything was needed. In general, the medical services called upon the Chapter transportation service directly rather than upon the ambulance companies for assistance.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE WEEK

On Monday, May 31st, it was clear that the medical aid committee must organize the medical services in such a manner that the work could be distributed with personnel being assigned to definite shifts during the 24-hour period so that those who had been on duty so long might obtain rest and so that the work might continue in an orderly manner. Accordingly, the personnel responsible for assigning physicians, for supplies and for nursing services were instructed to select assistants and to organize in such a manner as to function on the basis of 8-hour shifts. This type of organization was developed during the day and continued to function throughout the week with relatively few failures on the part of personnel to carry out their responsibilities.

A number of special arrangements had to be made at the beginning of the week in order to meet continuing needs. The general operations of the Chapter were rapidly transferred to the first floor of the Municipal Auditorium and the refugees were directed to that place for registration service. Among the large number of refugees congregating at the Auditorium there were numerous cases of illness, there

were babies that required care while their parents registered, there were persons who became exhausted. To meet this need a dispensary was set up and physicians and nurses were assigned together with necessary supplies and this service continued to function throughout the week. Also, numerous sick and injured persons arrived at the Chapter House seeking medical and nursing help. Accordingly, a dispensary with beds and supplies was set up and manned by physicians and nurses. As the Chapter operations were transferred to the auditorium, the need for this dispensary decreased and it was discontinued on June 1st.

A problem of medical care began to develop very early with respect to persons in the shelters as well as in private homes who became ill or who were injured and needed more complete examinations than could be done in shelters or in homes. Under the direction of Doctor Charles N. Holman, Administrator of the Multnomah County Hospital, a special refugee clinic was opened at the Medical School hospital and clinics to which such persons could be referred or sent. This clinic remained in operation throughout the entire first week.

During the spring months there has been an extensive epidemic of measles in Vanport among the children. Many were sick at the time of the flood. The facilities of the Portland City Isolation Hospital at S. E. 96th Avenue and Powell Boulevard were made available to these patients and there were so many that the normal capacity of 60 cribs had to be supplemented. As a result of a radio appeal, 35 additional cribs were donated by Portland citizens and taken to the Isolation Hospital so that additional patients might be taken in.

During the week occasional patients have required hospitalization and the

hospitals of the city have willingly accepted them.

One of the usual precautions taken in flood situations is the provision of immunization against typhoid fever. This was regarded by your chairman as a governmental responsibility and Doctor Harold M. Erickson, Oregon State Health Officer, assumed responsibility. An attempt was first made to take immunization teams into the shelters where immunization against typhoid and against measles was to be given. This very rapidly proved to be impractical and the policy was changed, with immunization being offered by the Portland Bureau of Health and the County Health Department in the City Hall and the County Court House during regular business hours. A limited number of immunizations were done at the emergency hospital in the police station.

TRANSITION FROM VOLUNTARY TO PAID SERVICES

By June 5th it was possible to begin to transfer from voluntary services to paid services. In carrying this out the public health nursing staffs from the County and City Health Departments, paid by those Departments, were assigned and the responsibility of manning the declining number of refugee shelters and nurses in the pay of the Red Cross were being assigned to supplement them. The plan calls for public health nurses to be on duty at the major shelters, including the Swan Island shelter, during the daytime with the supplementary nurses paid by the Red Cross on duty at night.

On June 5th a physician, Doctor R. M. Fouch, was hired by the Red Cross and Doctor Chapman, a Red Cross physician from San Francisco, joined him to take over general responsibility for medical care under the supervision of Doctor Weinziel. Under the plan

finally worked out, these physicians will take major responsibility for keeping the medical services functioning but these services are to be placed increasingly on the basis of private physician-patient relationships between the refugees and their doctors. The special dispensary at the Auditorium will be discontinued as early as possible and the special refugee clinic at the University of Oregon Medical School hospital and clinics will be discontinued.

In closing, it may be indicated that the medical aid services seemed to function with much smoothness and general efficiency and gained the approval and commendation of the Red Cross officials from San Francisco who

have had an opportunity to observe how such services generally operate during disasters.

At the time of the preparation of this report to you it appears that the critical period during which voluntary medical nursing and other services were necessary has largely passed and it is believed and hoped that the entire operation is now on a basis to continue with satisfaction to all concerned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Signed*

Adolph Weinziel, M. D., Chairman,
Sub-committee for Medical Aid,
Disaster Committee,
Multnomah County Chapter,
American Red Cross

REPORT OF REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The chairman of the Registration and Information Sub-Committee was advised at 4:45 p. m. Thursday, May 27th, that families were being evacuated at S. W. Miles Place because of the flood conditions in the Willamette River and the American Red Cross had been requested to render assistance if required by the evacuees. Accompanied by Miss Van Hoomissen and Mrs. Rahn, this chairman visited Miles Place. Contact was made with the Police and Fire Departments, which already had men on the scene and were assisting the evacuees with their moving. Through them this chairman ascertained the present situation and the number of families affected. The three Red Cross representatives personally contacted each of the families, registered them, advised them of the services available through Red Cross and offered their assistance. In all, sixteen families were contacted. One family, consisting of an elderly lady, Mrs. Grace Crane, living

alone, was not available. According to neighbors she knew of the situation but was visiting her daughter whose whereabouts were unknown. The other families had made arrangements for the storage of their furniture and for temporary billets. No assistance was requested. Later that evening, this chairman again visited S. W. Miles accompanied by Mr. Siegel, Miss Kummel and a Red Cross photographer and offered assistance to Mrs. Crane's son-in-law, who was supervising removal of her furniture, however, no assistance was required.

In the meantime the members of this sub-committee were alerted and a schedule of service set up. In addition to the regular members, five members of the volunteer Staff Aide Committee were instructed in the basic operation of the committee and placed on the schedule as were a number of people who volunteered their services to Red Cross in view of the emergency. During May 28th and

29th, recruiting in this respect was limited because the number of people affected was small. However, during May 30th and 31st, over one hundred were added to meet the Vanport impact and on June 1st, this number was more than trebled.

SAUVIES ISLAND AND MEADOWLARK CAMP

During May 28th and 29th, the committee was primarily concerned with evacuees from Sauvies Island, Meadowlark Trailer Camp and evacuees in the area of Linnton. Three families from Sauvies Island, totaling about eighteen people were transported from the dock in the North section of Portland to relatives in the Northwest section. Two families were moved the night of May 28th from the Meadowlark Trailer Camp and housed in the Carlton Hotel. On the 29th, seventeen families were moved from this same camp to Guild's Lake and staff was established at this latter point to handle registration there.

TROUTDALE

During the evening of Saturday, May 29th, Mr. Clark and Mr. Larson, accompanied by a mobile "Ham" operator, surveyed the situation in Troutdale at the request of the Mayor of that town. This chairman received radio reports from them as the survey progressed. The reports were relayed by a mobile radio stationed at Rocky Butte and directions and questions returned by the same method. The survey showed that while seven families were affected by floods in that area, all had been cared for and had found billets among friends and relatives. No immediate action was required by Red Cross. At the request of this chairman, the survey party secured registrations on all families before returning.

It appears to this chairman that the Troutdale Operation, while funda-

mentally a minor incident in the over-all flood operation, is a demonstration of a service that could and should be developed into a cogent and vital part of the over-all disaster preparedness organization. It is particularly effective in wide spread disasters as was proven in the recent flood. It is a quick and reliable means of communication not subject to some of the vicissitudes of other forms of communication. As cited above it enables disaster workers at scattered or isolated scenes of a disaster to report frequently and to secure needed supplies without leaving the scene.

INFORMATION CENTER

From the standpoint of the Information Center, during the 29th and 30th, the inquiries by phone and by personal visits were increasing steadily. A complication in the efficient operation of this section was the routing of all inquiries to it. The nature of the inquiries became more varied and included offers of help, skilled, unskilled, dike work, truck driving, etc.; offers of cars, trucks, housing inquiries as to moving of furniture and equipment both by truck and by boat; messages and inquiries from various government agencies co-operating in the flood work. The volume continued to increase until by Sunday night it was no longer possible to get messages out in reply to inquiries. This problem was solved Monday morning when the Registration and Information Sub-committee moved to the "Elk's Building." There a room was set aside for all local phone inquiries. One series of numbers received the calls and the outgoing calls went over another group of phones, the numbers of which were not released and thus remained open. Another group of phones accepted only long distance calls. These were manned by regular Home Service workers.

REGISTRATION

Starting with the registrations of S. W. Miles Street, both a case file and a 3x5 card file was set up for each registered family. Registrations were received in orderly fashion both as the families were assisted and through phone reports from families that had evacuated and reported themselves. Welfare inquiries about families received over the phone were checked and replies given immediately. Where families were not registered a 3x5 card was made out for the family and filed in another file for action. These files were labeled the "Registration File" and the "Inquiry File." Some time during the night of May 30th, or early morning of May 31st, with the changing over of volunteer workers, these files became known as the "Safe and Missing" files—a complete misnomer. However, because of the general use of these terms and the possibility of additional confusion this chairman made no attempt to change them, when it was discovered. This system was continued throughout the remainder of the disaster.

VANPORT FLOOD

With the breaking of the Vanport dike, on Sunday afternoon, the committee was augmented to meet the crisis. A registration desk was set up to register as many as possible as they came into the chapter house. Other volunteers were briefed and sent to man the various shelters. As quickly as possible the flood sufferers were diverted from the chapter to nearby shelters, where provisions had been made to register them. This was necessary as it was found that the mass of people crowding into the chapter included flood sufferers, relatives making inquiries, volunteers offering help and transportation, and people offering emergency housing. To further ease this situation, shortly after the Vanport disaster occurred, this

chairman secured from the Shelter Chairman a list of the shelters to be used in the area near Vanport, their location and capacity. This list was phoned to the Portland Police radio dispatchers with the request that it be radioed to police stationed on the roads leading from Vanport and that they be instructed to divert the refugees directly to these shelters. Throughout the night and morning, registrations arrived from the shelters and were immediately transcribed to 3x5 cards and added to the registration list.

On Monday morning, May 31st, Registration and Information was transferred to the Elks Building. At this point a section covering inquiries from out-of-town was incorporated and moved with this committee. Registrations continued to come in until over 1500 families were registered. A check of the major hospitals and the morgue on this date revealed that no bodies had been recovered as yet and about 78 Vanport people were in the hospitals. These latter comprised mainly people in for causes other than the flood, such as obstetrical cases, children's diseases, etc.

One of the major problems faced at this point was the numerous reports of children brought out by people other than their parents. It was estimated that there must be at least 55 children in the shelters and in private billets, who were separated from their families. Arrangements were made with Catholic Charities to segregate all these children in its Blessed Martin Day Nursery on North Williams at Graham. It was anticipated that the older children, who could identify themselves, could be reunited with their families and those too young to know their names would be in one place, there their parents could identify them. However, fortunately, this plan was not necessary as most of

the children were located by their parents or friends or were reunited easily through the registration file.

On Monday evening, the section was again moved to the Civic Auditorium this time and the operations of the various sections were taken over by Mr. Van Meter, Mr. Hill and several other Disaster Workers from Area Office.

In retrospect, it would appear that the whole disaster could be divided into two operations from the standpoint of this sub-committee. The series of Willamette River floods or minor operation and the Vanport Flood or major operation. The first was handled routinely with few people affected and few requests for assistance. Most of the evacuees were readily housed and immediately given food requisitions. Up to the time of the Vanport break approximately forty eight families were affected as against 1500 registered by Monday. The quarters and facilities at the chapter were adequate and the refugees were cared for without coming near the chapter.

However, the Vanport Flood was of such a size and nature that it immediately demanded a headquarters away from the chapter, with a large telephone facility with sufficient lines to enable calls to get out and with adequate space. This was not the case with the chapter set-up and tended to cause confusion. By not setting up a separate headquarters at the very beginning, the first impact of the Vanport Flood had to be borne at the chapter and the move made at the first ebb in the activities the following morning. However, it must be recognized that regardless of the location and size of a disaster headquarters the first twelve hours will be attended by considerable confusion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of our experience in this

flood, I would like to submit the following suggestions for consideration in planning the future organization of the Disaster Preparedness Committee of Multnomah County.

1. That closer liaison be maintained between the various sub-committees during a disaster. This could be effected through the establishment of a sub-committee charged with securing frequent information on developments in the various sub-committees and reports from the cooperating governmental agencies and combining them in bulletins issued to every sub-committee chairman. These bulletins would be issued frequently—hourly if necessary. For instance frequent reports from the survey committee on developments at the scene of the disaster would be of the utmost importance to chairman of other committees in anticipating demands that will be made upon them.

2. That the "Information" section be separated from Registration and its title changed to Central Index. Close administration ties and liaison would be established between Central Index and Registration and Home Service. Another "Information" service could be established for the purpose of handling all miscellaneous inquiries incidental to a disaster.

3. That (a) where co-chairman serve on a sub-committee, one to be designated to have the over-all responsibility of the functioning of that sub-committee. (b) it would appear inadvisable to place additional disaster responsibilities on regular paid members of this chapter as it detracts from the efficient handling of their primary responsibilities in the chapter.

4. That the plan started on the afternoon of May 30th, but never carried out be followed through. Namely, a meeting of the executives of several of the larger welfare agencies in Portland to discuss quotas in regard to

personnel who could be made available to this sub-committee in times of disaster. This should be preceded by a meeting with members of the Area or National Staff to clarify the terms under which the trained personnel of other agencies would be used by the American Red Cross.

5. That in times of disaster, Registration and Information (proposed Central Index) be set up immediately apart from the chapter and plans be organized before-hand for the rapid installation of necessary typewriters and phones.

In conclusion, this chairman wishes to express his appreciation for the fine cooperation afforded him by the members of the Registration and Information Committee and by the members of the Shelter Committee under the direction of Clarence Oliver. A debt of gratitude is due to the members of the Staff Aid Committee and the other chapter volunteers, who gave so much of their time and effort to help and advise the people affected by the flood and to the members of the regular staff of the Multnomah County Chapter for their assistance and cooperation; most of all to the hundreds of "unknowns" who appeared from nowhere,

did a marvelous job and disappeared, getting no acclaim and asking for none, but living examples of the spirit of the Good Samaritan that exists in this community. Last of all, but of most importance, was the fine administrative work and coordination, without which no committee could have functioned, done by Mr. Valentine and his aides Mr. Clyde Warren and Mr. Ernest Brewer.

Registration and Information Sub-Committee, Disaster Preparedness Committee, Multnomah County Portland Chapter, American National Red Cross

John B. Brady, Chairman
Helen Delehanty

Jo. Kummel
Agnes Ullman
Louis Sherman
Ed Siegel
Eleanor Hurvin
Hope Bishop
Mary Kiniburgh
Margaret Rice
J. Baron Fitzpatrick
Francis Kern
Charles Royer
Barbara Barton

and members of the Staff Aide Committee

REPORT OF FOOD SUB-COMMITTEE

As you know, we went into active operation in this Division at 1:00 P. M. on Sunday, May 30th, and the writer had his major assistant, Mr. Walter Spencer, present at the Red Cross headquarters.

When the word came of the break of the dike we immediately went into action, and realizing that the first item of necessity of food would be bread, we immediately started two bakeries in Portland for production of 15,000 loaves which was in the works and being turned out within four hours after our notice to them.

We contacted wholesale grocers in Portland regarding the supplying of food stuffs in wholesale quantities, and in order to have been as fair as possible in the matter of procurement we elected to use one wholesale house each day in supplying items needed for that day and then rotated our requirements through the various wholesalers on groceries and materials such as paper spoons, cups, etc.

Also realizing that there were thousands of people taken into private homes, and that Monday being a holiday, it would be necessary to make

it possible for these people in private homes to have food made available to them through grocery stores, so with this thought in mind we requested, through regular channels, newspapers and radio, that all retail grocery stores North of Sandy Blvd. remain open on the holiday, which I am pleased to report did in all cases where our publicity and information got to them.

After several days of trying to take care of the thousands of people that were going through our Red Cross headquarters on food with our inadequate Commissary Department we made the recommendation that Red Cross give these evacuees a requisition for so many dollars worth of groceries and they could cash this requisition at a grocery store of their choice closest to where they were being housed. Red Cross agreed to this recommendation, and in fanning these requirements through the regular channels it took a load off of our Commissary and relieved a tremendous amount of congestion, and in my opinion this method of procedure is the most efficient way to handle a food problem such as we had.

In the matter of handling the Canteens, this was done by ordering perishables from produce, milk, butter, cheese, and bakery goods distributors for daily deliveries either direct to the Canteens or through the Commissary.

On the emergency housing and relief centers, such as the Jewish Community Center, schools, etc, we would get their requisitions for food stuffs each day at headquarters and take care of their requirements out of the Commissary stocks.

We took care of the requests of feeding workers on the dikes, guards, and some Army units with cold lunches,

hot coffee and hot meals through the Canteen at Red Cross headquarters and, of course, handled delivery through the Motor Pool.

In relationship to personnel in our committee we were fortunate in having workers from practically every wholesale grocery house in the City of Portland, along with the full membership of the Portland Food Brokers Association who were placed on four-men teams working six-hour shifts around the clock, and at this time I would like to pay special tribute to the men who worked on this committee as their efforts were untiring and were very willing, and their former training in the food industry made the committee's work very efficient.

The matter of procurement in a disaster such as we have gone through is not a serious one, providing an organized plan is established to tie in all the wholesale suppliers in advance and have a pattern set as to each and everyone's responsibilities, and an occasional alerting meeting of all agencies on this committee.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing the appreciation for my committee, and myself personally, for the very outstanding and wonderful cooperation that was extended me by the permanent staff of our local Red Cross Chapter and the volunteers, as it was a great experience for me to see the spirit of cooperation and tireless effort on the part of everyone I came in contact with.

Trusting this report is sufficient, but should you desire further details on any phase of it please do not hesitate to bring it to my attention.

Sincerely yours,

L. K. Greer

REPORT OF SHELTER SUB-COMMITTEE

The chairman of the Shelter sub-committee was called to a meeting of sub-committee heads at the Chapter house at 8:00 p. m. on Thursday, May 27, 1948, to review plans for possible flood disaster relief. At this meeting he was asked to arrange to be on full time duty beginning Friday morning, May 28, and to alert the members of his committee for duty at any time due to possible floods in this county. At that time he reported that a re-survey of shelter facilities in Portland was practically completed, that school houses alone could provide immediate shelter and feeding for up to 25,000 people, with other shelters also available. He reported a committee of 20 persons available on call for part or full time duty.

After clearing with his own employer and arranging his personal affairs, the Shelter chairman reported to the Disaster Preparedness committee chairman, Mr. E. A. Valentine, at 10 a. m. Friday, May 28, for full time duty during the emergency. Headquarters for the Shelter sub-committee was set up in the assembly room at the Chapter house, along with the other sub-committee chairman, and a duty roster of committee members for the next several days was established and posted.

A number of hotels were checked for available space for flood refugees, including hotels accepting colored persons, and approximately 30 hotels were asked to hold space for this purpose.

The Portland Housing Authority was contacted regarding available housing space for refugees during the emergency. Mr. Freeman, director of the Authority, referred the chairman to Mr. Wilkins, head of the Guilds Lake Court project. Mr. Wilkins in-

dicated that about 400 family units were not in use, as follows:

200 1-bedroom units (mostly available for white people) 135 of these reported as furnished; 65 reported unfurnished. 100 single room and kitchen units, all furnished (40 or 50 in colored area) 71 2-bedroom units 20 reported as furnished, 51 unfurnished.

Most of these units, Mr. Wilkins reported, were not cleaned and would need some repair work, as they had not been planned to be reoccupied. Each family occupying one of these units would need bedding, some extra cots, coal, and kitchen and eating utensils, towels, soap, toilet paper, etc. He reported that he might need extra light bulbs, and brooms, mops, and pails for cleaning. His cleaning staff was not fully available because of the holiday weekend. He promised every cooperation of his staff, which, in retrospect we may report, was fully given in every way throughout the emergency.

Several members of the Shelter committee were assigned to duty at Guilds Lake on Friday, and a duty roster for that shelter area was set up to be continued during the emergency.

Several churches were called regarding availability for housing and feeding refugee groups, and a check was made on availability of space and facilities at Swan Island, the Portland Air Base, and Vancouver Barracks.

Since calls were beginning to come offering places for individual family and mass shelter if the emergency became acute, two members of the committee were assigned to receive these calls, and to set up a 3x5 card file tabulating them in terms of availability for different sizes of families. Of-

fers for mass shelter were referred to the committee chairman.

This individual family shelter headquarters continued to operate in the Chapter house assembly room, both for receiving and filing offers of shelter, and for assignment of families to these offered shelters, until Wednesday, June 2, when this activity was transferred to the disaster headquarters established in the Civic Auditorium and placed under the direction of Mr. Stoughton, of the San Francisco Red Cross Chapter, who was assigned to this duty by Oswald Thorsen, professional Red Cross worker in charge of housing. On Tuesday, June 1, the files were divided, and both headquarters provided individual shelter service pending installation of adequate telephone service at the Auditorium. On Sunday, June 6, Mrs. Margaret Lewis, professional Red Cross disaster worker, relieved Mr. Stoughton who had been called back to San Francisco, and she has continued to do an excellent job of individual housing placement since that time.

Rising flood waters on both the Willamette and Columbia rivers caused a number of evacuations of families on Thursday and Friday. Household goods were taken to Red Cross storage warehouse; and families were sent to Guilds Lake. This continued on Saturday and Sunday before the main flood broke at Vanport. After that, Vanport refugee families were received at Guilds Lake as fast as units could be prepared.

A supply of cots, blankets, and coal was ordered delivered to Guilds Lake administration center, where adequate storage was promised by Mr. Wilkins and the firemen in duty there. A supply of kitchen and eating utensils was also sent out.

Two committee members, Jean Crowder and Laura Mae Brown, were

assigned to take charge of the shelter project at Guilds Lake until further notice. They were authorized to issue warehouse requisitions and disbursement orders for needed materials to refugee families. They stayed on duty there, daily until 10 p.m. or later, until Sunday night, June 6, performing outstanding service in managing the Red Cross services there and orienting the professional Red Cross staff who took over beginning June 3.

Mr. Sanders, professional Red Cross worker, was sent out to take charge on June 3 at Guilds Lake. On June 4 he was transferred to take charge of Swan Island Red Cross, and Mrs. Medd, another professional Red Cross worker, was sent to Guilds Lake. Miss Brown and Miss Crowder remained until June 6 to help Mrs. Medd become familiar with the project activities. About June 11 Miss Frances Blackburn relieved Mrs. Medd and is now in charge.

By the evening of Friday, May 28, a number of refugee families had moved in at Guilds Lake. By Saturday night, May 29, nearly 500 persons were under Red Cross care there, many of them from the Meadowlark Trailer Camp area along Swift Boulevard at the city garbage dump and incinerator. By May 31 this had mounted to 650 persons, and June 1, to 1000 persons. By June 4 all available housing units were reported full, with approximately 2000 refugees receiving Red Cross assistance.

From the beginning of the Red Cross activity at Guilds Lake, the Guilds Lake school, its principal, Cecil Posey, its teachers, and its dietitian, Miss Muir, performed valuable services. When it became evident that cooking facilities were not available in many of the housing units where refugees were placed, due to needed

repairs or lack of cooking and eating equipment, Miss Muir volunteered to operate the cafeteria with Red Cross food until arrangements could be made for family cooking. In doing this, she gave up her own income, which she received through operation of the school cafeteria on a small profit basis. This community feeding continued until Monday, June 7, by which time all families had been equipped by Red Cross disbursement orders with food and the necessary equipment for preparing it. Red Cross motor corps provided transportation for families at meal time and as otherwise needed, throughout this period.

On June 4, 200 of the Guilds Lake refugees accepted the invitation of Mr. Shipstad, of Shipstad and Olson's Ice Follies, to be his guests at a matinee show at 2 p.m. that day. Arrangements were worked out by Miss Crowder and Miss Brown, transportation was furnished by the Portland Traction Company through the motor corps, and the activity was a success in every way. Other recreational activities were planned and carried out at the project by the regular recreational staff there.

The only major difficulty which arose in the early operation of the Guilds Lake shelter was the diversion of a number of loads of food sent to the Guilds Lake schoolhouse by what was reported to be unauthorized interference of an auxiliary police unit stationed at the 29th Street community center. Trucks were reported unloaded at the police headquarters there and food issued by the police to residents in that area. A protest to city police headquarters, and a guard on food trucks finally straightened out the situation after several short meals at the schoolhouse.

A much appreciated act was the gift

of ice to refugees at Guilds Lake by the Liberty Fuel and Ice Company, from whom coal for the refugees was being purchased.

By Saturday, June 12, the first few of what are reported to be several hundred trailer units were being unloaded at Guilds Lake to supplement refugee housing in that area. These will, of course, continue to be emergency temporary housing to take care of the many families now doubled up with other families in private homes. They are not the final answer to the housing problem for the flooded-out families.

SHELTER FOR VANPORT EVACUEES

On Saturday, May 29, the Shelter sub-committee chairman attended a meeting of community agencies to clarify responsibility for services in case evacuation of Vanport was necessary. At that meeting the chairman reported the availability of Portland schoolhouses for temporary shelters sufficient to care for any who might be evacuated.

Following that meeting, the chairman called a meeting of representatives of the Portland school system and Red Cross for 7:30 that evening, Saturday, May 29. This meeting was attended by Paul A. Rehms, Portland superintendent of schools, Eugene Allen, school board member, and Frank Vincent, supervisor of custodians for the Portland schools; for Red Cross, Harold Berentson, Chapter manager, E. A. Valentine, chairman of the Chapter disaster preparedness committee, and Clarence E. Oliver, shelter sub-committee chairman.

At this meeting it was agreed that all necessary schoolhouses with cafeteria facilities would be made available immediately in case of an evacuation of Vanport or other flooded areas, that if possible all high schools should be freed from evacuees for

school opening on Tuesday, and that any evacuees housed in elementary schools would be transferred to other mass shelters as soon as possible in order to allow closing of the school year as planned by the end of the week. Every cooperation was offered by the school representatives in case the emergency should arise. Mr. Rehmus volunteered to alert school principals, teachers, cafeteria workers, and PTA members, and Mr. Vincent to alert custodians if called upon by the shelter committee chairman of Red Cross. Mr. Vincent remained after the meeting to re-check the list of schools and the available cafeteria arrangements, following which a revised school list, with addresses and shelter capacities, was set up and mimeographed.

On Sunday, May 30, the shelter sub-committee chairman made further arrangements concerning possible mass shelters, enlarged the available volunteer staff working with his committee at Chapter headquarters, and moved his own office to a separate room in the Chapter house near the office of the Disaster Preparedness committee chairman. While in process of the move, word was received at approximately 4:30 p.m. that one of the Vanport protecting fills had given way and that evacuation was taking place.

The two school officials were alerted by telephone immediately, setting in motion the taking over by Red Cross of all schoolhouses as emergency shelters. As many committee members as possible were contacted by phone and asked to report to schools in the area nearest to Vanport. Volunteers reporting to the Shelter office in the Chapter house were asked to assist in the operation of these school shelters, and one team of volunteers, headed by Thomas H. Hite, was sent

to the Denver and Interstate intersection to help direct evacuees to nearby schools.

The Chapter house switchboard soon became hopelessly jammed with incoming and outgoing calls, and communication by telephone became almost impossible. The amateur short-wave radio service, set up at the Chapter house and keeping in touch with several short-wave radio mobile units which visited the schools housing refugees, did valuable service in maintaining communication Sunday night. Installation of a direct outside telephone line to the Shelter chairman's office late Sunday greatly facilitated contact with these shelters.

Schools which received evacuees Sunday are as follows:

School	Approx. No.
James John	250
Boise	500
Kenton	200
Ockley Green	300
Peninsula	300
Portsmouth	250
Kennedy	150
Vernon	200
Irvington	75
Alameda	20
Ainsworth	60
Jefferson H. S.	60
Roosevelt H. S.	25
Benson Poly. H. S.	15
Holladay	225
Woodlawn	200
Rigler	5
Whittaker (not in Dist No. 1)	100

The above figures can only be approximate, since many persons were taken into a school shelter, registered, and immediately taken into a private home in the neighborhood. In most cases the schools fed more persons than they sheltered over night, since persons taken into homes frequently

came to the school for their meals while the school remained open as a shelter.

A large number of other schools reported that they were ready to care for evacuees, but no need for their services arose. Most of these schools were asked to stand by over Sunday

In addition to schools, a number of churches opened their doors to evacuees and did outstanding service, some of them for a week or more. These included:

Church	Address	No. Sheltered
All Saints Episcopal.....	S. E. 41st and Woodstock.....	25 or more
Assembly of God.....	1925 N. MacClellan St.....	20 " "
Bethel A. M. E.....	316 N. McMillan.....	25 " "
Blessed Martin Center.....	21 N. E. Broadway.....	20 " "
First Baptist	S. W. 12th and Taylor.....	115 " "
Hughes Memorial.....	108 N. Knott.....	50 " "
Kenton United Presbyterian.....	2115 N. Lombard.....	125 " "
Lutheran Comm. Center.....	73 N. E. Russell.....	30 " "
Mocks Crest Evan. U. B.....	3935 N. Lombard.....	50 " "
Northminster Presbyterian	2823 N. Portland Blvd.....	50 " "
Piedmont Presbyterian	N. E. Cleveland and Jarrett..	25 (One night only)
St. Phillips Episcopal.....	108 N. Knott.....	50 or more
St. Stephens Episcopal	S. W. 13th and Clay.....	15 " "
Trinity Episcopal	N. W. 19th and Everett.....	100 " "
Vancouver Ave. Baptist.....	1914 N. Vancouver.....	25 " "
Zion Hill Church of God in Christ.....	111 N. Graham.....	15 " "

Most of these churches also aided in feeding persons taken in by families in their neighborhood, and, as in the case of the schoolhouses, the numbers cared for can only be given approximately because of the constant movement into private homes. Both schools and churches became centers for receiving donations of food, equipment, and clothing from people in the neighborhood, and these were used or distributed from these centers until they were closed as Red Cross shelters, when surplus materials were given to evacuees in the neighborhood or picked up by Red Cross trucks for central warehousing and distribution.

As word was received of evacuees

night and were then released on Monday. Schools sheltering only a few evacuees were closed Monday because of absorption of evacuees into private homes, and the three high schools were closed as shelters on Monday, the Jefferson high school group being transferred to another shelter.

arriving at schools and churches, cots, blankets, cot mattresses, and food supplies were sent out from Red Cross headquarters or warehouses. Registration of all evacuees was started at once in order to facilitate location of lost persons. Red Cross home nursing service was set up at each center, and neighborhood doctors were asked to check each unit frequently. A number of measles cases were discovered and isolated as soon as possible.

Special mention should be made, in connection with the shelters in the Williams-Vancouver Avenue area, of the work done at the Williams Avenue YWCA. Located strategically in the center of an area in which large numbers of colored evacuees were

housed in churches and private homes, this YWCA was set up as a feeding center for evacuees in the area, as well as a registration and nursing center, and continued to perform that service during the week following the Vanport disaster and until arrangements were completed for transferring the evacuees to Swan Island. While many of the families in the area did not want to go to Swan Island, they were able to be handled on an individual family casework basis after the YWCA was closed as a Red Cross center.

The churches which served as Red Cross shelters largely are grouped in two areas, the first in the vicinity of Kenton, nearest the Vanport evacuation point, where the Kenton school served as a center and clearing house for distribution of personnel and supplies, and the second in the vicinity of the Williams Avenue YWCA, as indicated in the previous paragraph. In addition to these two groups, two west side churches, the First Baptist and the Trinity Episcopal, opened their doors to large groups of evacuees and cared for them until transfer to the Swan Island center was possible. The lack of bathing facilities at the churches was a problem which in the case of the First Baptist church was met by sending them to the nearby Couch school. One church in southeast Portland, the All Saints Episcopal, asked for and received evacuees from one of the schools when it was closed as a shelter.

The relatively small total of persons cared for in mass emergency shelters Sunday night of the Vanport break, as indicated by the school and church groups listed above, is evidence of an amazing example of community hospitality which showed itself spontaneously after word of the Vanport dis-

aster reached Portland citizens by radio Sunday afternoon. Red Cross, through its shelter committee, had mass shelters able and ready to care for the total population of Vanport, approximately 5300 families, yet, homes throughout the city were opened to the evacuees, in many cases without regard to color or race, so that shelter after shelter reported no evacuees arriving, until the count Sunday night showed a total of less than 4,000 of the Vanport people used the mass shelters that night, while over 14,000 were welcomed into private homes. Exact figures for the shelters are impossible to give because many evacuees checked in at a shelter only to find sympathetic citizens ready to take them into their homes at once.

Of course, many of these citizens were unable to provide shelter and care for more than a very limited period of time, and the families taken in reported to Red Cross headquarters within a day or two for other arrangements. In the meantime, literally thousands of Portland citizens—and the citizens of our neighboring communities—had phoned Red Cross indicating their willingness to care for evacuated families for a limited period of time, and as families came in for new quarters, new assignments were made for housing with private families, Red Cross agreeing to provide necessary bedding, clothing, and food for the immediate emergency period. Up to the end of the second week after the disaster struck Vanport, Red Cross has not at any time had mass shelters for over 4,000 people, including many from flooded areas outside Vanport. The others met their own needs or accepted hospitality of private citizens, as far as

housing is concerned. For most of the Vanport citizens Red Cross was called upon to provide bedding, clothing, food, reassembling of families, listing of missing persons, communication to friends and relatives in other parts of the country, and more recently, location of rental space and job assistance.

Some housing assistance, of course, was provided by neighboring communities. Approximately 150 persons from Vanport were sent to Vancouver, Washington, to be housed at Vancouver Barracks Sunday night before the interstate highway was washed out. This movement was ordered over the protest of the shelter chairman, who believed that it was an unnecessary risk of life when plenty of shelter space was ready and unused in Portland. Approximately 35 families were housed at the state fair grounds in Salem Sunday night, under the care of the Marion County Red Cross Chapter. Other communities gave similar assistance as families or individuals reached them from the disaster area. Within a few days, reports were received of evacuee families arriving in states as far away as Texas.

SECOND PHASE OF THE SHELTER PROBLEM

The first phase of the shelter problem,—housing and feeding the Vanport evacuees for the first night and providing for registration in order that families might be reunited and anxious friends and relatives assured of their safety—was met as described above. A second phase immediately began—the removal of groups from schoolhouses as soon as possible in order that activities connected with the closing of schools for the summer vacation might not be interfered with unnecessarily.

On Monday, May 31, Oswald Thorsen and Max Rote, Red Cross disas-

ter staff members sent in by National Red Cross, assumed control of the housing situation with the local shelter chairman, and plans were begun for transfer of evacuees in school shelters to other and more permanent shelters. Mr. Thorsen conferred with city officials regarding availability of large shelter areas. In the meantime, surveys were made of mass shelters offered by a number of civic organizations in addition to the churches already serving in this way.

Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Benson high schools were cleared on Monday either into private homes or, in the case of Jefferson, by transfer to another shelter center. Peninsula school, with limited cafeteria facilities, was closed as a shelter by transfer of persons there to the Jewish Neighborhood House at 3030 S. W. Second. Offers made by the American Legion Post No. 1, at 1139 S. W. 13th, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 81 at 1004 S. W. Third, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 1325 at 1011 N. Killingsworth, and the Jewish Community Center at 1636 S. W. 13th, were surveyed and accepted, and plans were started for transfer of evacuees from schools to these shelters.

On Monday, May 31, the following schools were closed as shelters, either by absorption of evacuees into homes in the community or by transfer to the above centers: Jefferson H. S., Roosevelt H. S., Benson Poly. H. S., Peninsula, Portsmouth, Ockley Green, Alameda

On Tuesday, June 1, the school shelters were closed as follows: Kenton, James John, Rigler.

On Wednesday, June 2, school shelters were closed as follows: Boise, Kennedy, Vernon, Irvington, Ainsworth, Holladay, Woodlawn.

This left only the Guilds Lake school, which was in use as a feeding center, and the Whittaker school, outside the Portland School District No. 1, which was opened as a shelter for persons in the flooded areas north of Columbia Blvd., not including the Vanport area. The latter school continued to shelter and feed people from that area for two weeks after the dikes broke, and later has been used as a registration center and casework interviewing center for that area. Guilds Lake school continued to be used as a feeding center until Monday morning, June 7, and since June 11 one wing of the school has been retained as Red Cross administrative and casework center for the Guilds Lake area under the direction of Miss Frances Blackburn to care for the needs of approximately 2000 evacuees at Guilds Lake.

SWAN ISLAND SHELTER

On Tuesday, June 1, Mr. Thorsen made arrangements for taking over dormitories at Swan Island sufficient to house approximately 1500 persons, with arrangements for feeding them at the cafeteria already in operation there. Some doubts regarding the possible flooding of this area by further high water were dissipated by engineers' reports showing at least 1½ feet elevation above predicted high water for the area of the Island being considered, and work was started cleaning these quarters for use as a large mass shelter. Arrangements were made for the cafeteria already in operation there to feed evacuees under contract with Red Cross.

The first groups of evacuees were moved to Swan Island on Thursday, June 3, from two shelters where crowded conditions constituted a health hazard. These were the VFW shelter at 1011 N. Killingsworth and the

Trinity Episcopal church. A total of 141 persons were registered at Swan Island from these two shelters, which were then closed.

Plans for rapid movement of other groups to Swan Island were slowed by fear on the part of many evacuees that Swan Island itself was in danger of being flooded by the predicted higher flood levels yet to come. Some families returned to their previous mass shelters or to private homes after spending a few hours at Swan Island. This fear of being caught again by rising waters was certainly to be expected on the part of persons so recently exposed to the horror inspired by the rush of water at Vanport. Red Cross did not insist that people go to Swan Island. They were allowed to stay where they were until they were convinced that Swan Island was safe.

It should be pointed out here that at no time and in no shelter set up by Red Cross was any segregation on the basis of color or race practiced by Red Cross. Some of the shelters,—for instance, Boise school—became all-Negro shelters by the reason that buses stopping there happened to carry a large proportion of colored persons, and the citizens of that community took all the white evacuees—and many of the colored—into their homes, leaving an all-Negro group in the shelter. Likewise many of the other shelters tended to become shelters for colored evacuees by the same process. The first groups moved to Swan Island were colored families for that reason. However, the groups moved on June 4, particularly that from the Neighborhood House, were largely white, and these were moved in to quarters at Swan Island along with persons of other colors and races,—Filipinos, Indians, Japanese, Negroes, etc.,—with no discrimination or

segregation, according to Red Cross policy. It is inevitable, of course, that a large proportion of the persons remaining for any length of time at Swan Island under Red Cross care will be colored, since the residential areas of Portland open to colored residence under the ethical code of the realtors were already crowded before the Vanport disaster, and the 5000 or more colored residents of Vanport will find it more difficult to secure permanent residences than will the white evacuees. The open-hearted generosity of many white citizens of Portland in taking in colored families at the time of the disaster may have some lasting effect in breaking down lines of prejudice, but it can hardly be expected to cause a permanent breakdown of real estate restrictions on colored residential areas.

For advice and assistance in handling Negro evacuee problems and in maintaining the non-segregation policy, William Berry and Mr. Hill, officers of the Portland Urban League, were called upon frequently and gave most valuable assistance.

On Friday, June 4, in addition to the Neighborhood House shelter, plans were made for the moving of several other shelter groups to Swan Island, including the First Baptist church and the Kenton United Presbyterian church groups. Growing resistance to this move because of fear of further flooding at Swan Island shelter caused these moves to be only partially successful. However, a number of individual families were sent in place of mass shelter groups.

On Saturday, June 5, groups were taken to Swan Island from the churches around the Williams Avenue YWCA, including Bethel AME, Hughes Memorial, Assembly of God, Lutheran Community Center, Van-

couver Avenue Baptist, and a group from the All Saints Episcopal church in southeast Portland. Some of these churches continued to shelter families afraid to go to Swan Island, or not wanting to go because of the desire to do individual cooking for the family, but the Williams Avenue YWCA was closed as a feeding center on Monday, each family being left responsible for its own feeding through family disbursement orders secured at the Red Cross Disaster Headquarters in the civic auditorium.

By Sunday evening approximately 1000 persons were registered at Swan Island, and all of the smaller shelters except the Whittaker school, the Mocks Crest church, and the American Legion Post No. 1 shelter had been closed as official shelters. The last two were moved to Swan Island on Monday, June 7, leaving only small groups on an individual basis in a few of the churches around the Williams Avenue area.

The Whittaker school, which had early been set up by people in that community as a shelter for evacuated persons from the Columbia Boulevard, golf course, and airport areas, continued to operate as a shelter until about three weeks after the Vanport break, and then as a casework center for that area.

JAPANESE-AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICE

An example of community cooperation of a somewhat unique nature should be included in this report. Among the Vanport families evacuated were around 350 persons of Japanese ancestry. Many of the family heads were elderly persons who spoke English with difficulty. Most of these families were taken in Sunday night of the break by other Japanese-American families or by the several Japan-

ese language churches in Portland. On Sunday night the Japanese-American Citizens League opened a shelter center at 124 N. W. Third avenue and arranged for shelter and feeding these evacuees from that center. On Wednesday a Red Cross case worker was assigned to that center, where interpreters were on hand to assist in helping Red Cross discover and meet the problems of these families without having to go to the Disaster Headquarters at the auditorium. Until that time aid for these families was provided entirely by the Japanese-American community, which had already, on Monday, sent a donation of \$1,000 to Red Cross chapter headquarters for the general disaster relief fund.

MISCELLANEOUS EXAMPLES OF COOPERATION

Examples of community cooperation in feeding and sheltering evacuees probably will never be completely listed. Several outstanding examples came to the attention of the Shelter chairman.

The McArthur Hotel, in Kenton, opened its rooms for shelter on the Sunday night of the Vanport break. Many evacuees were taken into homes in the Kenton Area, and a group of young women, under the direction of Patty Jensen, of 2038 N. Kilpatrick Street, secured permission of the owner to open a food center in a nearby former restaurant. Red Cross food supplies were sent out, and the place remained in operation through the following Saturday, June 5, by which time arrangements had been made for Red Cross food orders for individual families and the mass feeding was no longer necessary.

When the Woodlawn school was closed as mass shelter, many evacuee families taken into homes in that area were still returning to the school

houses for food. The Woodlawn Methodist Church volunteered to feed these families as long as necessary since all but two families in that area had individual food orders by the following day, and these were immediately cared for.

An outstanding service was performed by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Martin, of Route 1, Box 67B, who live on the Lower Columbia Highway just west of Linnton. Seven or eight families lived in smaller houses owned by Mr. Martin along the Columbia Slough below the Martin home. Before the Vanport break these houses were flooded out. Mr. Martin made his home a storage place for his tenants' furniture, arranged for shelter for the tenants, and secured Red Cross food to feed around 25 persons during the flood period. The flood waters just reached the first floor of the Martin home at its highest.

No doubt scores of similar examples of neighborly help could be cited if the record were complete.

This report would be incomplete without mentioning the services performed by a group of war veterans under the leadership of Paul Hathaway, who daily checked mass shelters for the first week to determine their needs and to keep this Shelter chairman informed of their status.

And recognition also must be given to the Red Cross volunteer services,—the Motor Corps which always was able to find transportation for groups being moved; the canteen service which always had food for evacuees and workers, the transportation committee headed by Charles Olson; the food committee headed by Leonard Greer; the supplies committee headed by Allen Meier; the committee which secured and made available cots, blankets, and mattresses; the registration and information committee

headed by John Brady; and the overall leadership of Ed Valentine, Disaster Preparedness chairman, Clyde Warren, his assistant, and Harold Berentsen, Chapter manager.

Appreciation must be expressed for the most excellent cooperation given by the Portland city schools, from Mr. Rehms, superintendent, Mr. Vincent, supervisor of custodians, the principals of the schools, the teachers, and the cafeteria workers, down to the community volunteers in the neighborhood of the schools. The assistance of Miss Georgia Howe, school liaison, was very helpful.

The chairman's personal thanks is given to Mrs. Cora Oliver, Hideto Tomita, and Frank Dunning, who served as his personal aides at the shelter offices during the week following the Vanport break, and to the members of the Shelter committee listed below, who served in a number of places on committee assignments during the period of the flood emergency. This committee—along with the registration committee—was made up of members of the American Red Cross Veterans Reserve, an organization composed of persons who had served Red Cross in Service to the Armed Forces during the war. Their

knowledge of Red Cross procedures and their experience in working under emergency conditions made it possible for them to be of unusual value during this flood emergency period.

Shelter Sub-Committee, Disaster Preparedness Committee Multnomah County-Portland Chapter American National Red Cross
Clarence E. Oliver, chairman

Laura Mae Brown
Jean Crowder
Frank Dunning
Pat Gallagher
Raymond Davis
Elwood Wiles Jr.
Jean Kronenberg
Lucy Corbett
Jo Kummel
Ruth L. Brown
Joyce G. Spencer
Louise Nunn
Lavina Hunt
Grace Sandberg
Eva Klein
Gladys Pearson
Virginia Scott
Grace Rowan
Kay Kritchlow
Ernest Davis
and Principals of all schools operated as shelters

REPORT OF CLOTHING SUB-COMMITTEE

My report to you regarding the operation of the Clothing Committee during the recent flood disaster cannot be statistical and accurate because I neither compiled any facts and figures nor have they been given to me by the auditors of the Red Cross as to the actual work accomplished during the first few days when I was in charge. What I give you here are only my observations as to what transpired:

1. I want to compliment you, as the

operating head who had the foresight to warn us in advance and cause us to be on the alert prior to the moment of great trouble.

2. I wish to compliment all of the various branches with which I had contact and who coordinated their efforts with my division.

3. I want to specifically mention my co-chairman, Harold Miller, who untiringly gave such valiant service with no regard to time or effort. The balance of my committee and friends

who assisted, I wish to remember for their noble service and the manner in which they followed directions without a question. It was these workers who made our division function so smoothly and give the service which we thought was required.

4. I wish to compliment the various stores, warehouses, depots and their personnel who were called on to give us twenty-four hour service and who kept us supplied with the needs for the victims of this disaster. I think it was simply remarkable, the speed with which the inexperienced organizations became a smooth running machine. All of us at the helm realized that the start would be somewhat disorganized and inefficient, but it was not many hours until everyone in the entire Red Cross organization helped

and cooperated for the benefit of the victims. I believe that the first emergency was well and efficiently handled so as to alleviate the suffering which was brought on with such suddenness.

I do not know of a single case where help was urgent and immediate attention required that any help or kindness was not shown to the victim. Each case was considered an individual problem and with the speed required, we attempted to do and study the needs with the greatest of dispatch.

We tried to care for the funds of the Red Cross in the most diligent manner, yet issuing requisitions where we felt aid should be given.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) ALLEN E. MEIER
*American National Red Cross
Clothing Committee Chairman.*

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

During the recent flood emergency, the Radio Amateurs of this area assisted your organization with emergency radio communications wherever required — and trust that our services were satisfactory. In expectation of being able to be of greater service to you in the future, we look forward to conferences with you in which permanent plans may be laid for closer coordination through knowing your needs in time of emergency when normal communication channels are disrupted or heavily overloaded.

In this expectation of being able to

render a greater voluntary communications service in the future, our organization is furnishing an extract from our initial report transmitted by radio amateurs channels to The American Radio Relay League headquarters on June 14, 1948.

It is hoped that this initial report will provide sufficient information until our final reports can be completed, at which time full copies will be furnished your office.

Sincerely yours,
ALLEN N. DAVIS
Emergency Coordinator.

PORTLAND-MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHAPTER

Monthly Report

Portland Area Emergency Corps originally alerted one week before Vanport disaster. Disaster headquar-

ters station was set up at Red Cross headquarters early in the morning of May 28th. Headquarters station in-

cluded net control station for 25 mobile 10-meter stations serving Red Cross survey parties, also dike patrol areas, etc. Point to point service from disaster headquarters to County Sheriff's office, Coast Guard, and 75-phone and 80-CW liaison stations were established on 2-meters.

On same date, thirty 75-phone stations along Columbia River from Pendleton through Astoria and Clifton Beach were alerted on 3941 KC to service Coast Guard, U. S. Engineers, and any or all who might need amateur facilities along expected flood area.

Mobiles provided constant patrols of danger areas such as dikes and heavily populated areas such as Vanport which was 15 feet below level of flooding Columbia. Close cooperation between our mobiles and sheriff's office in Vanport, along with fixed station set up by Don Smith, W7DHX, a resident of Vanport, provided constant radio contact with disaster headquarters.

First flash that Vanport dike had broken was via ham radio transmitted by W7DHX on mobile frequency to disaster headquarters. Further and exact details are yet to be ascertained from W7DHX, who not only lost practically all of his belongings but almost lost his wife in the disaster; also the sheriff's officers with whom he cooperated prior to and during the break are still too busy to get official confirmations established, etc.

Also involved in the Vanport area were several 10 and 75-meter mobile units, details of which must also be ascertained when possible.

From this point, involving Vanport inundation, things moved so fast and network expanded so quickly in accordance with previous plans that in-

dividual station calls and personnel involved cannot accurately be tabulated for weeks, possibly months.

From this point, work was chiefly by voice in the Portland area, with CW being used for long haul traffic to and from the area. Inquiry traffic was held up because authorities had no means of handling it, inasmuch as 30,000 persons were not completely registered until as late as June 6th. However, outgoing welfare traffic was moved on bands other than 75-phone due to need for using that band for government and relief agency work directly connected with flood area.

Modes of communications included 10-meter mobile, 10-meter fixed point relay, 2-meter point to point, and 75-phone portable mobile in the Portland-Vanport area. Evacuation centers, food kitchens, first aid centers, doctors and supply sources were serviced by roving mobile units which relayed the communications needs of all relief agencies along with service to Coast Guard and Engineers in the dike areas.

Heavy wear and tear on operators and equipment, including their cars, continued for basic communications emergency period of one week to ten days.

On Monday, May 31st, a second radio headquarters was set up in U. S. Engineers headquarters where increasing volume of engineer traffic indicated need for a 75-phone net control station to give better service more quickly after initial impact of Vanport disaster work lightened slightly and allowed key personnel to set up second radio center in full liaison with circuits already established through dual channel 2-meter set-up which provided equivalent of two intercoms linking whole organization in the area.

At the same time a call for help came from Sauvie Island for radio communications to aid large group of Army Engineers, troops, civilians and government agencies isolated from mainland due to loss of regular ferry service and threatened complete inundation of whole island, with prospect of heavy loss of life and property. Sauvie Island set up 75-phone circuit on 3900 KC with continuous contact with several Portland stations assigned solely to guard Sauvie Island frequency. Walkie talkies were also utilized for local dike work on Sauvie Island and big story on how they saved the day will be forthcoming when authorities can release facts.

Of prime interest is the fact that all ham work in vital areas was done under constant threat of death due to precarious nature of dikes in all areas. When Union Avenue fill broke on June 1st, all cable and lines north across Columbia to State of Washington were severed along with main highway route across Columbia, thereby completely isolating the two states from each other except by radio communications of all types. Lines out of Portland were jammed to east and south and severed completely north across river and west to Coast along Columbia River route where most cables are laid. Public utilities were provided full service by special cross river networks serving Vancouver and Portland, thus linking the two states together, there also being full two state coverage by already established traffic nets on CW and phone in 80 and 75-meter bands. Interference on 75-phone band definitely jeopardized lives and property in flood areas where low powered stations were struggling for mere existence and

keeping contact for government and relief agencies, but red tape precluded possibility of getting this band cleared due to lack of understanding on part of those back east that we were in a very serious situation.

Present tabulations show 250 hams actively participating in Portland area, backed up by 200 others in surrounding areas or providing equipment and services indirectly. Estimated \$30,000 worth of personal equipment involved in immediate area.

During period of critical communications emergency from May 28th through June 6th, approximately 10,000 messages and dispatches were handled in disaster work by hams, comparatively little of which was welfare traffic, inasmuch as Red Cross provided commercial means of welfare messages due to seriousness of disaster and the fact that hams were already involved in providing local communications which were of vital necessity in saving lives and property. Commercial channels east and south became fairly normal after first few days after Vanport disaster.

Large percentage of key men in organization went for days without sleep until physically and mentally exhausted due to heavy demands which continued for such a long period because of second and third crests of flood stages. The week following June 6th, when the need for ham facilities tapered downward, was one of consolidation and standby, with equipment installation remaining intact in case of further use, and men getting much needed rest and going back to jobs from which they were absent for critical period.

Agencies served include Coast Guard, Army, National Guard, Red

Cross, U. S. Engineers, Sheriff, public utilities, small marine boats, State police and countless others. Also aided farm and food supplies by coordinating through ham communications for outlying farmers' cooperatives, locating missing freight train for Railway Express, etc. All services rendered are deeply appreciated and agencies are all high in praise of amateur radio, and when the immediate task of taking care of the displaced persons is accomplished, these organizations will publicly acknowledge the fact. Much has already been acknowledged, but an idea of the greatness of the situation can be seen when Red Cross estimates it will take at least six months to take care of the Vanport victims alone.

AL DAVIS, W7DIS
*Emergency Coordinator,
Portland Area*

SAFETY SERVICE
Dr. Sard Wiest, Chairman

First Aid: Fifteen Ace First Aiders were on the job immediately upon word of the Vanport dike break, and many others notified the Safety Services department of their readiness to report when needed. Water Safety instructors also rallied to the emergency. However, due to the nature of the disaster, their services were not needed in actual water rescue work. Many served as volunteers in helping to make sandwiches and assisted in feeding the volunteer workers on the dikes, and others acted as messengers, typists, emergency drivers, receptionists, etc. Following the Vanport disaster, a large number of men were serving as volunteers in sandbagging the Marine Drive dike. At the request of the Coast Guard, First Aid personnel patrolled the dike in three shifts of eight hours each for several days. First Aid Instructors of the Police

Auxiliary, as well as all other Instructors, were loyal in volunteering for this service.

HOME SERVICE
Mr. Robert Gilley, Chairman

The Home Service Department, along with the other chapter services, cooperated with the Disaster Committee during the recent disaster. For several days preceding the disaster, complete coverage was given in the department. Following the disaster and during the interim period until the National Staff took over, wires were handled at the chapter. Stenographers and caseworkers, assisted by several volunteer workers, kept the teletype service on a 24-hour basis, and we have received many commendatory letters regarding our wire service during the emergency.

The Director, a caseworker and two secretaries were on duty at the disaster headquarters in the Civic Auditorium full time for one week, assisting with the administrative work. The Director also met with various agencies regarding plans for children who were victims of the flood. Several additional caseworkers also assisted at the Civic Auditorium in the interviewing section.

JUNIOR RED CROSS
L. E. Rinearson, Chairman

The Vanport flood disaster brought forth an outstanding demonstration of volunteer service from members of the Junior Red Cross. During the first few days of the disaster, Juniors at the Auditorium distributed thousands of toys, assisted in the nursery, acted as messengers and worked on the switchboard. Later at San Island they gave fine assistance as recreational aids and at the same time furnished hundreds of games and toys. Toys were also distributed to indi-

dividual families who called at the Junior Red Cross workshop.

At the request of Mrs. Phyllis Morena, Supervisor of Recreation for Disaster, the Junior Red Cross staff assisted in recruiting volunteers from Camp Fire, Girl Scouts, Catholic Youth Organization, B'nai B'rith, Vanport Teachers, Portland Library, and the Portland Story League and Arts and Skills Service for the recreational program at Swan Island.

HOME NURSING

Mrs. E. C. Johannesen, Chairman

The entire nursing services department was taken over by the Medical Division for Disaster from the 1st of June to the 15th. All scheduled home nursing classes and other activities were postponed.

DISASTER NURSING

Approximately two hundred nurses volunteered time between June 1st and June 9th. Since that time, nineteen nurses have been on the national payroll covering three shelters which have now been condensed into one, Swan Island, with about 3,000 people under nursing care. Also about 1300 immunizations were given at City Emergency Hospital during June.

STAFF AID SERVICE

Mrs. Carolyn Goodall, Chairman

Staff Aides were alerted for disaster work on Thursday, May 27th. Consequently they were at headquarters shortly after the dike went out at Vanport City on Sunday, May 30th, ready to work wherever they were needed. In a short time they were registering volunteers who were jamming into headquarters to offer their help. They acted as guides to the bewildered evacuees who were looking to the Red Cross for clothing,

food and shelter. They staffed two information desks, giving out as much accurate information as could be obtained in the inevitable confusion. These jobs they filled all night. Many other Staff Aides were sent to shelters, churches and schools, where they worked all night and part of the next day registering evacuees. Many of them stayed on this job several days and nights.

By the next day, more order was being established at headquarters, and definite jobs were developing to be done. Two information and registration desks were permanent assignments for over two weeks, as was the staffing of four telephones in the assembly room, on 24-hour basis. Hundreds of volunteers were registered and classified and card files made according to their offers. Trucks and truck drivers, dike workers, cooks, laundry workers, clerical workers, P.B.X. operators, baby sitters — an amazing variety of help was offered, and, of course, the offers of housing were carefully registered and classified, as this was of utmost importance. All these files were of greatest value in supplying later badly needed help, and the housing files were turned over to the Auditorium Staff when they set up the shelter department.

At the Auditorium, Staff Aides were at once put in charge of the general information desk and the expediting desk through which cleared all requests for volunteers for the 24 hours of each day of the week they were needed. These requests were put through to the crew answering the telephones in the assembly room at headquarters and requests for hundreds of volunteers were filled from there. One Staff Aide, in particular, stayed on the job for nearly a week steadily, 8 hours a day. The excellent volunteer help we received from

Hyster Company, the Bonneville Power Administration and Junior Chamber of Commerce at inconvenient and late hours, was most appreciated. These firms were most cooperative. The librarians who responded to our requests for filers for evenings and week ends have our grateful thanks also, as do many others who gave their help so willingly. There were Staff Aides working in master files, case register files, welfare inquiry control, shelter department, and many others were working in some capacity in every department at the Auditorium. Public inquiry and general information desk was turned over to Staff Aides exclusively, who set it up and staffed it 24 hours a day for many days. Later it was put on an 8-hour basis and is still operating in this manner, using 20 staff aides a week. Secretaries each day were assigned in this manner to two administration heads for several days, and a staff aide acted as receptionist for the administration office for over three weeks. The Red Cross emergency nursery registration desk was another Aide job, as was assigning evacuee numbers, directing evacuees to proper departments, and guide service. Public Information had two aides to assemble newspaper publicity. Many of these Auditorium jobs continued on 12-hour basis for three weeks, or until paid help was put on and some will go on until the emergency is over.

Outside of Headquarters and the Auditorium, Staff Aides were assigned for many days to register or type at University Homes, Swan Island, Guilds Lake and Whitaker School. At Grant High School, a secretary was given each day for a week to help Miss MacNamara on the Vanport Student Program. For two weeks a Staff Aide has been working each day including Saturday and Sunday, at Po-

lice Emergency Hospital registering and maintaining a card file of each person who receives typhus shots. This work will continue for some time.

One Staff Aide was assigned to the telegram department at the Auditorium, where over 6000 wires were sent the first few days and many wires were received and checked through the files by her. She also sent telegrams for evacuees from that department.

During the first two weeks, over 40,000 mimeographed copies of various forms used by every Red Cross department were done by two expert Aides, who did a wonderful job. Many typed letters, lists and communications were also done. Time cards were brought up to date before the end of the month, under very difficult conditions, as our files were buried for days under radio equipment, which was moved in the first day of the flood.

On June 24th, we were given the task of heading and addressing some of the 5000 letters to be sent out for food relief contributions. Four Staff Aides worked many hours on this one job alone.

The response to the emergency by the Staff Aides has been so spontaneous and wholehearted, their work has been so outstanding and their cooperation so splendid, that I feel very grateful to have been associated with such a fine group of women. During June, 140 Staff Aides gave a total of 7,000 volunteer hours.

PRODUCTION SERVICE

Mrs. O. R. Maris, Chairman

The month of June started with the Vanport flood. Production Service was called upon to provide clothing for the flood victims on a 24-hour schedule. Of course the supply of

New Home Service garments was depleted immediately. Because of the fact that it was a double holiday, all stores were closed and it was necessary to call for used clothing, which created a problem for our volunteers. The clothing came in so fast it was impossible to keep it sorted. However, we were able to supply many families with emergency garments. Used clothing and canned food were received by express from many towns and cities all over the United States. Also several Red Cross Chapters sent new clothing. The sewing department went to work immediately, making diapers and baby clothes, as many of our calls were for infant garments and layettes. Every request for layettes was filled. Vanport has been called 'The city of babies.' After the first two days the used clothing was cleaned out of the cutting room and grocery supplies were stored in there where requisitions were filled and given out in the packing room. The following list of garments were given out to the disaster victims: 814 infant garments, 270 children's garments, 234 layettes and 300 dozen diapers. These were all new garments and no count was taken of the used clothing. It was very gratifying to see the way volunteers of the war years come back to work without even being called.

The regular work of surgical dressings and hospital supplies for the Veterans Hospital went on as usual.

CANTEEN SERVICE

Miss Roxana Shroyer, Chairman

With so many food centers functioning and such quantities of food sent out in the first hectic days and nights, an accurate count of the number of meals served is impossible to determine, but we estimate 200,000 meals were served. We know for cer-

tain that we used 80,000 half pints of milk, 150,000 cups of coffee, 700 pounds of butter, 18,000 pounds of cheese, 650 pounds of cottage cheese and 62,000 doughnuts.

We of the Canteen Service feel certain that no one in the area went hungry for very long. Approximately 250 canteeners worked during this time. Canteeners came in from Hillsboro and Oregon City and Women of the Elks had women on duty 24 hours, washing dishes. Members of the Baptist Church also helped in the Canteen.

Approximately 300 persons were served sandwiches, doughnuts, milk and coffee on Sauvie Island daily for about a week. Farmers, property owners and truck drivers who were busy removing cattle had not stopped to eat for several hours.

Chapter House stayed open 24 hours a day and workers on the dike were also being served.

On May 30th Canteen workers were summoned over the radio to report for work at the Chapter House. Sandwiches were made and packed in boxes to be served to dike workers. The first 24 hours we worked continuously making sandwiches. Evacuees and workers were served sandwiches, salads and fruit, doughnuts, cookies, milk and coffee. All foods were served on paper plates and paper cups.

A constant stream of evacuees and workers were fed breakfast, lunch and dinner. Hot meals, such as soup, baked beans with weiners, spaghetti, meat loaf with noodles, beef stew or macaroni and cheese were served, always with a salad and dessert of fruit and cookies. Each 8-hour shift used 10 to 12 canteeners for food preparation and serving and as many more making sandwiches.

Auditorium Canteen opened at 11:30 a.m. on June 1st. The first 24 hours 11,000 meals were served. All food was served on paper plates. Auditorium Canteen stayed open for 14 days, the first 7 days on a 24-hour basis and later closing at midnight. Kiddies Canteen stayed open for 7 days. Headquarters Canteen stayed open 24 hours the first 10 days, later closing after the dinner was served. Food was sent to shelters for the first week.

ARTS AND SKILLS SERVICE

Mrs. Carl VomCleave

Outside of the regular hospital work, the flood disaster brought forth two 'jobs' for Arts and Skills—one the painting and lettering of signs, taken care of by our able Director with one assistant; the other a request for a handicraft program for the children at Swan Island Red Cross Shelter for Vanport evacuees. Some workers were sent out at the first call and went three afternoons a week.

MOTOR SERVICE

Mrs. Charles Gerlach, Chairman

The Motor Service was extremely busy during the disaster operation. The volunteers gave long hours of service and many former Motor Corps members returned to work during the emergency. Many of the drivers used their own cars, since the Motor Corps equipment was not adequate to meet the demands for transportation. Several men volunteered as drivers, primarily using their own cars and trucks. On the whole the calls were handled with a minimum of delay and confusion after the initial organization was accomplished.

During the first week of June there was an average of fifty drivers a day using their own trucks and cars and twelve men a day with trucks trans-

porting cots, blankets, food and other supplies to the shelters, as well as evacuees to the shelters and other housing. This was in addition to the regular workers from Chapter Headquarters.

During the second and third weeks there was an average of 30 drivers a day transporting supplies, personnel and evacuees. The Portland Traction Company cooperated most effectively in providing busses and drivers to move evacuees from the shelters to Swan Island and Guilds Lake.

On June 21st the Motor Service resumed normal schedules of drivers using Chapter equipment.

The disaster calls from Chapter Headquarters during June amounted to 6,038.

On June 21st a separate dispatching desk was set up at Disaster Headquarters in the Auditorium, which operated through June 25th. The first week of this service was operated 18 hours a day and the remainder of the time 10 hours a day. An average of twenty drivers a day were on duty, including volunteers from Clackamas, Washington and Marion County Chapters, using their own equipment. The estimated number of calls during this period was 3,360, an average of 140 calls a day. Many of these calls involved transporting evacuees and supplies. Before the disaster staff was able to obtain their own cars, the Motor Service also provided transportation for case workers making home visits, and for nurses and other personnel.

In addition to the disaster work, the usual services of the Motor Service were given, amounting to 1,596 calls, some of which may have been connected with disaster work, but are counted here as Chapter Services.

The mileage for the month of June for the Chapter equipment was 11,524. Total calls, 10,992.

NURSES AIDE SERVICE

Mrs. Robert Swanson, Chairman

During the recent Vanport disaster Nurse's Aides and Gray Ladies worked together. They worked with trained nurses and in the 16 different shelters. Ninety Nurse's Aides worked during this time.

They assisted the nurse with first aid, sick children, taking temperatures, feeding and bathing children and helping the victims in getting settled. Nurse's Aides also helped at the Auditorium Nursery, Doernbecher and Isolation Hospitals and the first aid at the Auditorium. These places were all staffed on a 24-hour basis. The response of the Nurse's Aides was very gratifying. Many who had moved here from other chapters came in to help us. Salem Chapter sent two Nurse's Aides to help. They continued to help until all the shelters were closed and then they helped out at Swan Island.

The Veterans Hospital was also staffed during the disaster and all the month. Many of the Veterans Hospital Aides served in the emergency also.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Mrs. Lamar Tooze, Chairman

A new sign on the office door, "Press", designates the change that occurred in the Public Information department overnight, after the Vanport flood. The small office has been bursting with people and activity, telephone calls coming in on the regular and additional telephones almost continuously.

As with other departments, ours went on a 24-hour basis May 26th and following the break, Kay Larson

stayed on duty through Sunday night and Monday, with others in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

Fortunately a staff writer had been assigned to Portland Saturday before the break. Others were here from area and national for varying degrees of time. For the first week we were bombarded by news reel, telephone calls from local papers and the AP, UP and International News Service and radio stations, requesting information and interviews. With so many Red Cross centers of activity and so much happening at once, it was a real project to get out news and to aid the radio and news reporters.

Because of the suddenness of the Vanport break and the dikes breaking the following days, there was much critical news to be released, sometimes several times a day. Search for bodies and concern about the 'missing' occupied the papers and radio the first week. On June 7th, we released to all services the names of 715 'unlocated persons' and a 'missing' list of 30. These were published and given over the air, and soon the large list went down to 200 and less, as many of them were inquired about by interested friends, rather than by close members of the family, who would normally know their whereabouts.

With the opening of the Regional Red Cross Disaster Headquarters in the Civic Auditorium, the news interest centered there and was handled under the direction of national public information men from Washington D. C., with Arthur Larson, a member of the local disaster committee volunteering full time the first week. To staff both locations, Mrs. Rita Woodbury and Mrs. Betty Huddleston organized a group of young women volunteers to aid us. The contribution they made has been out-

standing. Helen Platt, Virginia Corning and a number of others came in to volunteer. Mrs. Woodbury and Miss Platt took night shifts as well, as writing news and working with radio in the daytime.

Within the hour after the Vanport break, radio stations were on hand to offer assistance and they gave immediate and valuable service. Reporters came to the chapter house to obtain their stories. The Red Cross was the center of flood operations. Our department had been represented at almost all of the disaster preparedness meetings from Thursday on and had 'alerted' the papers to some of the Red Cross activities in Montana, Idaho and Washington, where swollen rivers had created a threat of danger.

After the break the telephones were blocked with calls, so it was almost impossible to call in or out. KOIN offered to take bulletins over the telephone and to relay them to the other stations. We accepted that offer gratefully and the arrangement was most helpful. We had many bulletins of our own and aided other agencies by handling bulletins for them, as the radio stations requested that many of the bulletins clear through the Red Cross to avoid as many duplications and errors as possible. A number of stations arranged direct broadcasts from chapter headquarters and later from the Auditorium, interviewing evacuees and national and local workers.

Having a Red Cross photographer on hand the first 10 days enabled us to have many more pictures of Red Cross in action than otherwise would have been possible. Many of these pictures were sent over wire services.

To offset misunderstandings as to Red Cross' responsibilities, radio and newspaper people made special broad-

casts during the month on the relief and rehabilitation work being done.

A number of regional stories have been used locally as well as reports of Multnomah County. The almost countless radio broadcasts and bulletins and the 439 clippings received on Red Cross stories from papers in the area give an indication of what a strenuous month this has been. The visit of President Truman and his talk from the Auditorium occupied the efforts of the national public information people during their stay here, as there were many plans to be made with the FBI and others.

To assist a short time with publicity for the disaster fund appeal and radio, Evelyn Cooper, who volunteered a great deal of time, was put on the staff full time on June 15th.

As the Red Cross moves farther into the rehabilitation period, efforts will be made to keep the public informed of the aid being given home owners, as well as the people who lived in public housing in Vanport.

At the outset of the flood, I was out of town, but returned immediately and have been in the office much of the time since and in constant touch with expanding work of the department. In my absence, Mrs. Margaret M. Sharp, vice-chairman of the department, has been on call.

The department expresses appreciation to newspapers, radio and other media and to Red Cross workers; and the public for the great cooperation and understanding extended to us. The manifestation of aid and goodwill is a great asset to the chapter. We also appreciate the interest of many who have reported rumors to us, which has served to keep us informed of local reactions and given us an opportunity to present true facts.

GRAY LADIES

Mrs. Charles Fox, Chairman

The training given to the Gray Ladies proved very valuable during the emergency. Gray Ladies were assigned to fill in on various duties.

One of the first questions asked after the flood was "What can a Gray Lady do in time of disaster?" These women were scheduled in 8 hour shifts of 24 hours each during the first 10 days. We first called on active Gray Ladies and fortunately 16 more had just completed the training course. Most of them had also finished their Hospital training hours. Because of the short list of active Gray Ladies and the long hours they served it was necessary to recruit other members who had been inactive and had served during the war at the Army Air Base and at Barnes Hospital. A radio appeal was broadcast for volunteer Gray Ladies and the response was excellent.

On Monday, May 30th, 16 shelters were staffed as well as the City Morgue and the Civic Auditorium. Gray Ladies reported to the Registered Nurse in charge of shelters. Under the circumstances Gray Ladies worked in many capacities beyond the duties for which they were trained. They worked in all the shelters with the Nurses Aides and the assignments were approximately the same. Among the services given were caring for the evacuees and their children who were ill, consoling those persons who came to the City Morgue looking for their families, serving in the missing persons bureau and at the Auditorium where registrations and food and clothing requisitions were taken care of. A total of 65 Gray Ladies worked in the shelters giving 1830 hours. Aside from the emergency work, 25 Gray Ladies served 305 hours at Veterans Hospital. Forty-six practical nurses who volunteered for service

were scheduled through the Gray Ladies office and sent to the Isolation Hospital.

During the disaster it was gratifying to have the wholehearted cooperation of the other volunteer services. Mrs. Robert Swanson, chairman of the Nurses Aides, was especially helpful. The Gray Ladies worked out of the same office as the Nurses Aides and the scheduling was done as one service, with the exception of Doernbecher Hospital, where only Nurses Aides were sent.

In closing this report, I cannot speak too highly of Mrs. Florence Elton, our schedule chairman who worked long hours in the office as well as continuing at the Veterans Hospital.

NUTRITION

Mrs. Howard Allen, Chairman

The nutrition service cooperated with the disaster committee throughout the month of June. The Director of nutrition and the Chairman assisted the Food Committee by writing food orders the first few days of the emergency.

Assistance was given to the disaster operation of feeding centers in shelters. The Chairman of Nutrition recruited Dieticians and Nutritionists who wrote menus and helped with the cooking. About twenty in all responded and worked, many after full shifts in hospitals and other positions.

The Director was loaned to the national organization to work at the Swan Island Cafeteria where she wrote menus, checked on food ordering and the service given by the commercial firm that was contracted to set up this service.

The chairman of Nutrition checked the food prices for a new Home Service Budget. This budget is also being used by the Disaster workers in making allowance to evacuees.