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\$25,000 Damage Caused by Flood

Northern State Hospital Water Reservoir Washed
Out When Hanson Creek Runs Wild; Prairie
Family Escapes Death; Home Ruined

Heavy damage to the Northern state hospital's intake reservoir dams on Hanson creek near the hospital was caused last Sunday when a log jam in a ravine above the dams was broken up by flood waters and the logs sent smashing with destructive force against the concrete structures. Cost of repair of the dams will approximate \$25,000, hospital authorities stated.

The hospital water supply meanwhile is being drawn from a tributary of Hanson creek by a pump operating 24 hours a day and the hospital is hard pressed to keep the supply adequate, it was revealed by Percy Banks, hospital engineer.

Torrential rains last week near the headwaters of Hanson creek swelled the stream to unprecedented floor stage and swept the log jam downstream, from where it had been lodged for several years in the ravine. The logs were the accumulation of abandoned cuttings from a logging operation in the nearby hills several years ago and residents of that vicinity estimated that there were perhaps a thousand logs packed in the ravine, many of them of great size.

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Gaston, who reside about two miles below the dam, and near Hanson creek, narrowly escaped death when the huge mass of logs crashed through their premises riding a six-foot wall of swirling water. Giant logs smashed against the Gaston residence, carrying away the entire outer wall of a bedroom and doing an estimated \$1,000 property damage.

The Gaston couple were in the kitchen adjoining the bedroom when the crest of the flood struck at about 5 a. m. Sunday and were trapped in the house by the rushing water and heavy debris which swept across their premises. Two immense cedar logs struck the front of the house and lodged there. The force of impact shattered the windows, admitting a rushing torrent of water.

Floors of the Gaston residence were covered to a depth of nearly a foot by heavy muck and sand. As many as 200 logs were left scattered near the house when the water subsided. Open, level land around the house soon absorbed the force of the piled-up flood waters and the crest was past in a matter of minutes.

Furnishings in the bedroom which was demolished by the flood were swept into a pasture below the house. The bedsprings were a twisted mass of wire and steel, wrapped about the corner of an out building, bearing evidence of the devastating force of the flood. The family car, a light coupe, was carried away from a point near the house and smashed against the outcropping front of an underground cellar.

A giant fir log measuring nearly four feet in diameter and 20 feet in length was deposited in the back yard near a woodshed. Other great logs lay in grotesque positions here and there about the premises. Heavy debris, muck and sand covered the area about the house and the complete picture was one of desolation and destruction.

About 100 yards distant, across Hanson creek from the Gaston residence, a two-acre field seeded to clover was ruined by the flood. At least a half hundred logs were deposited on the field, which belonged to a neighbor, Oskar Hill.

This was the only damage Mr. Hill's farm sustained. He described

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FLOOD CAUSES HEAVY DAMAGE

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ed the descent of the flood waters as sounding "like a thousand airplanes and army trucks going through" and stated that his wife "thought it was Uncle Sam going after the Japs."

A county bridge across Hanson creek, joining the Flaherty road with the old "C. C. C." road, and located between the Gaston and Hill residences, was destroyed by the deluge of logs and rushing water and the creek bed at this point was filled in to a depth of five feet with muck and sand. Work of clearing the creek bed, preparatory to building a new bridge, was to begin this week. This loss tentatively was estimated at about \$200.

The Samish river was at its highest peak in history last week and flood waters covered hundreds of acres of farm land, but without causing material damage. The crest of the flood was reached during the week and the danger has subsided, it was reported.

County Engineer Walberg reported general damage to roads and bridges over the county, as the result of the recent heavy rains, but no specific heavy damage was indicated so far. Only one bridge, in the Hanson creek area, was washed out, but numerous jams at bridge abutments occurred, and there was water over the roads in various places, causing minor washouts. It will take about three weeks to clean up the debris and repair the road damage caused by the high waters, Mr. Walberg stated.