

A Photographic Story of the Flood
in the Ohio Valley

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BEST FLOOD PICTURES

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The Most Destructive Flood in the History of the United States

TAKING lives, causing destruction to property and business to the extent of seven hundred and fifty million dollars.

Cities and towns bordering the one thousand mile or more length of the otherwise calm and picturesque Ohio River, were completely at a standstill, save for the hustle of refugees, relief workers, and the dreaded rushing of flood waters, which, beating with a constant swish, conveyed to the troubled thoughts of man, that it is alone in its perilous, yet supreme superiority.

Failure of the dykes, hastily constructed walls of earth, sandbags and gravel to stem the tide, added to the horror of the throngs gathered at the waters edge. Inch by inch, foot by foot, this great yellow serpent-like body of water crept over them, into the streets, cellars of homes, and finally, like the monster it can be, into the homes themselves; consuming block after block of busy cities and towns, ruining in a few hours that which took more than a lifetime in the making.

Picture if possible thousands upon thousands homeless, without food or clothing, heat or light, and most precious of all, to either man or beast, no water to drink.

People scurrying with pails, tubs, jars, and other vessels to age-old springs and wells upon the hilltops ignored since pioneer days.

Bankers and laborers, people from the social walks of life, going hand in hand with the poorer element, drinking from the same cup and etiquette discarded, eating from the same table, again proving that all men are equal, if only in time of disaster.

Never in its history has the Ohio gone on such a rampage. In the year 1884 our fathers and grandfathers saw a flood, measuring at Cincinnati some seventy-one feet, a horrible spectacle which as it was related to us, we were never to behold.

Little did anyone dream that this same river and its tributaries would some fifty odd years later, rise to the seemingly impossible stage of eighty feet at Cincinnati, and may we through some great engineering feat, never witness anything of a like freak on mother nature's part as long as we ourselves, our children and children's children shall live.

In this little book we are trying through pictures to convey to you some of the tragic events of this heart-rending catastrophe, that has befallen citizens in and around the area this great yellow peril has visited.

CLEM SCHUTTE



Passing through flooded Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati.



Vicinity of Cincinnati Municipal Airport. Flooded new Administration Building seen at head of street on the left.



Airport Levee



Business District—Cincinnati. Second and Walnut Streets looking east on Second.



Scene on East Front Street, in Cincinnati's wholesale merchandising district, when the Ohio approached the flood crest.



Crowd at Pearl and Broadway watching police carry flood victim to dry ground.



Knowlton's Corner looking out Hamilton Avenue.



Firemen removing flu victim from flooded house on Liston Avenue, Riverside.



Holbrook Avenue in the East End.



Looking east on Second Street from Suspension Bridge.



Cincinnati end of Suspension Bridge.



Cincinnati Terminal Warehouse. One of Cincinnati's food supplies cut off. Looking east on Front Street from Smith Street.



Looking west on Second Street from Suspension Bridge.



Clifton Avenue residents in Cincinnati flock to a piped hillside spring for fresh water, which must be boiled before drinking.



Covington, Kentucky, on the Ohio opposite Cincinnati, under fifteen feet of water—over one-third of its area.



Howard Krummel abandons the Villa May after a futile attempt to save her in the Cincinnati flood.



Fire at the Crosley Radio Corporation plant in flooded Cincinnati.



West Covington, Kentucky, across the Ohio from Cincinnati, under fifteen feet of water.



Covington end of Suspension Bridge.



East End of Cincinnati from Columbia Avenue.



Barges at Third Street and Eggleston Avenue.



Unloading New Jersey Coast Guard Cutters in flooded Cincinnati at Third and Vine Streets.



Covington, Kentucky, opposite Cincinnati on the Ohio, digs in behind sand-bags.



Cincinnati Gas and Electric Plant, Front and Rose Streets.



Looking east on Second Street from Smith Street, at the Bridge.



Building which collapsed in flood waters of the downtown section, Third and Broadway. Six families escaped to the roofs and were lowered by ropes to the street.



New Jersey Coast Guards in Cincinnati on rescue work.



Body of Harry Vaske, 57, first Cincinnati flood fatality. He attempted to escape from his home from a second-floor window. The boat capsized, and he was drowned.



Cumminsville.



Main Street, Cincinnati—An example of how half the business district looked.