

WEATHER

Rain today, colder tonight. Tomorrow fair and cold. High tides at 12:31 P. M. Sunday and 1:12 A. M. Monday.

The HERALD Statesman

TEMPERATURES

Table with 2 columns: Yesterday, Today. Rows for 3 P. M., 6 P. M., 9 P. M., 12 Mid.

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YONKERS, N. Y., SATURDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 23, 1937

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NODINE HILL TOWER COLLAPSES; FLOOD WRECKS HOMES, HURTS 9



175-Foot Tank Falls With Roar; Autos Crushed

Wall of Water Hurls Brick and Steel Down Elm Street As 100,000 Gallons Are Loosed

'RED TAPE' HALTED RAZING

The Nodine Hill Water Tower, stately 175-foot structure at the top of one of Yonkers' highest hills, collapsed like a house of toy blocks at 7:55 A. M. today, causing thousands of dollars in damage to homes and automobiles for blocks around and injuring nearly a dozen persons, some of them gravely.

A gigantic metal tank inside the tower leaned for a second as the crumbling bricks let go with a roar. Then it dipped to the west and crushed to the ground with such tremendous force that it flattened like a pancake.

The whole Nodine Hill section was thrown into bedlam. A wall of water—freighted with great chunks of brick and steel and iron railing—swept through the area, washing like lava down Elm Street and other immediate sections.

Many Washed Out Of Bed

Homes were bashed in and their occupants roused from their sleep and sent scurrying to safety. Some men and women were washed out of their beds. Their beds were demolished.

More than a score of houses were demolished or badly damaged.

At least a dozen automobiles were crushed like cardboard—some of them beyond repair.

Almost miraculously—because it was Saturday and the W. P. A. crews are idle that day—workmen were absent from their perch atop the 175-foot structure, where they had been busy putting on a new roof for the last two weeks.

In the midst of the flood the forces of nature and of gravity combined to mock Yonkers authorities and Federal Government as more than 100,000 gallons of water were let loose by the smash-up.

Demolition Had Been Authorized

Just a year ago next Wednesday the Common Council had adopted a program calling for the demolition of the water tower and for the construction of a new one, with Public Works Administration funds.

The Federal Government approved the project early this year but red tape in Washington was holding up the actual word "go," which would have brought down the structure without widespread injury and damage.

Loehr Orders Probe

Loosing of the 100,000 gallons in the tank sent water cascading down Elm Street and nearby backyards towards Getty Square. Some of it ran down as far as Palisade Avenue.

Residents of the sector voiced prayers of thankfulness that the tank had been only one-fifth full at the time.

Mayor Joseph F. Loehr announced "an investigation has already been set under way of this unfortunate accident," and he expressed "deep sympathy for those who have been hurt or have sustained property damage."

"Everything possible is being done to aid them," said the Mayor.

Water Department officials, arriving at the scene, immediately directed the closing of gates leading to the water tower, which was in use up to the moment of the collapse.

Supplies to that and other affected sections were at once turned on from the Lake Avenue tower, and Public Works Commissioner Edward J. Murray announced that although the reserve supply on the high service system may be reduced, there is no danger to water pressure in the event of fire.

Collapse Puzzles Officials

Police, firemen, public utility crews, water crews and others concentrated upon the area—and thousands of spectators arrived despite the heavy rain.

Officials insisted that they were "puzzled" by the manner in which the tower gave way. One suggested that it might have been caused "by the steel tank buckling about 15 or 20 feet from the base."

Whether the high wind from the East and the heavy rains of the last few days had anything to do with the destruction remained for official investigations, which will now get under way.

Neighbors scoffed at official explanations and said they had complained to City Hall "for years" that bricks and other parts of the tower were dangerously falling—and the structure should be torn down.

There were several eyewitnesses to the incident, among them Detective John Fitzpatrick of 286 Prescott Street, who was about to take his automobile and drive to police headquarters on Wells Avenue.

"It took less than two minutes for the entire building to fall," he said.

As the bricks came tumbling down, with a deafening roar, which was climaxed by the collapse of the steel tank

Candidates Disagree On 'Suppression' Of Health Information

Loehr Quotes State Authority To Support 'Shush' Policy of Commissioner McGillian

COTTER FOR PUBLIC PROTECTION

Mayor Joseph F. Loehr, Democratic candidate for reelection, today produced a stinging rebuke from Dr. E. S. Godfrey, Jr., State Health Commissioner, who partially upholds the news suppression policy on contagious diseases and deaths recently inaugurated by Health Commissioner Eugene F. McGillian.

At the same time Common Council President Frank B. Cotter, republican candidate for the Mayoralty, avowed his belief in giving communicable diseases full publicity as a means of protection to the city and for the "general good and welfare and health."

Both candidates made known their positions on the matter in replies to The Herald Statesman questionnaire on health.

Three Cars Run Over Body Of Hit-Run Victim

Man Lies in Road After First Auto Struck Him—2 Deaths Raise Toll to 106

Struck by a hit-and-run driver, a man died on Saw Mill River Road last night after three other automobiles had passed over his body as it lay in the road. A second victim of an automobile collision, the 106th in the county this year, died in United Hospital, Port Chester, early this morning a week after his car struck a telephone pole in Harrison.

Thomas Walsh, about sixty, of 4610 Wadsworth Avenue, New York City, was walking along Route 100, south of Troop K barracks of the state police, at 7:15 P. M. when he was struck by an unidentified car. A second car followed shortly and the passengers, whose identity police refuse to reveal, saw the body

Both of the candidates declared themselves in favor of retention of the suppression policy.

Under special circumstances, such as the occurrence of an outbreak in a limited section of the city, or inflections of quarantine regulations, it might be very desirable to publish information regarding the location and identity of cases.

(Continued on Page Three)

(H. S. Staff Photo by J. Barno)

This is all that was left of the huge water tower on the Elm Street hill, after it collapsed at 7:55 A. M. today, sending 100,000 gallons of water cascading on a thickly populated residential area on Nodine Hill. At least nine were injured and thousands of dollars in damage done. W.P.A. workers were repairing roof but were not at work today.

Watchman Marvels At His Escape

James Berry, Only Slightly Hurt, Tells of Crash Like Quake With Flood

With an earthquake roar the aging Nodine Hill watertower crumbled to ruins this morning and James W. Berry, sixty-nine-year-old W.P.A. watchman at the site marvels that he lives to tell the story.

His forehead bloody from a puncture wound in the scalp and abrasions of the forehead and nose, Berry excitedly told police, doctors and reporters of his "miraculous" escape and of his premonition that the tower would collapse.

"I Was In It" "I don't know really what happened," he exclaimed. "All I know is that I was in it."

"I don't know how it happened. I don't know why I'm alive."

"It was a little before 8 o'clock—five or ten minutes. I was going to work. As I reached the shack I heard a rumbling and I saw the top of the tower come tumbling down."

"I couldn't escape it. I remember being washed up against a railing."

"When I got my footing I was amid bricks and wood. I kept hold of my umbrella in one hand and my bag in another."

"The neighbors came running out. I said: 'Call the police.'"

"Then they brought me here in a police car."

With that Berry reclined again on the bed in St. John's Hospital emergency ward. Dr. Eugene De

solous for a time. Treated by Dr. Polenski.

MICHAEL HUDAK, forty-five, of 391 Prescott Street, treated for shock.

JOSEPH HUDAK, twenty-nine, of 391 Prescott Street, treated for shock.

MRS. ANNA BUCKO, forty-seven, of 271 Elm Street, severe shock, attended by Dr. Anthony DeAngelis of St. John's Riverside Hospital.

List Of Injured In Flood

Here is a partial list of the injured:

EDWARD HUDAK, thirty-five, of 391 Prescott Street, attended by Dr. James V. Polenski for concussion of the brain, contusions and abrasions of the left shoulder, possible internal injuries, abrasions and lacerations of both hands, contusions of the scalp. At St. Joseph's Hospital. Washed out of bed and his bed was demolished.

MRS. TERESA HUDAK, sixty, Edward's mother, of 391 Prescott Street, at St. Joseph's Hospital with concussion of brain, contusions about the body, shock. Also tossed from her bed. Attended by Dr. Polenski.

TERESA HUDAK, twenty-two, of 391 Prescott Street, in St. Joseph's, concussion of brain, possible fracture of right ankle and right wrist, abrasions on both hands, uncon-

scious for a time. Treated by Dr. Polenski.

MRS. ANNA BUCKO, forty-seven, of 271 Elm Street, severe shock, attended by Dr. Anthony DeAngelis of St. John's Riverside Hospital.

MRS. VERONICA GOTTHARDT, twenty-seven, of 228 Orchard Street, suffered severe shock when her automobile—in which she was a passenger—was covered by wreckage immediately in front of the tower.

JAMES W. BERRY, of 43 Bennett Avenue, watchman at the tower, lacerations over right eye.

AUGUST DIETZEL, forty-five, of 18 Henrietta Street, lacerations of the right hand and

(Continued on Page Four)

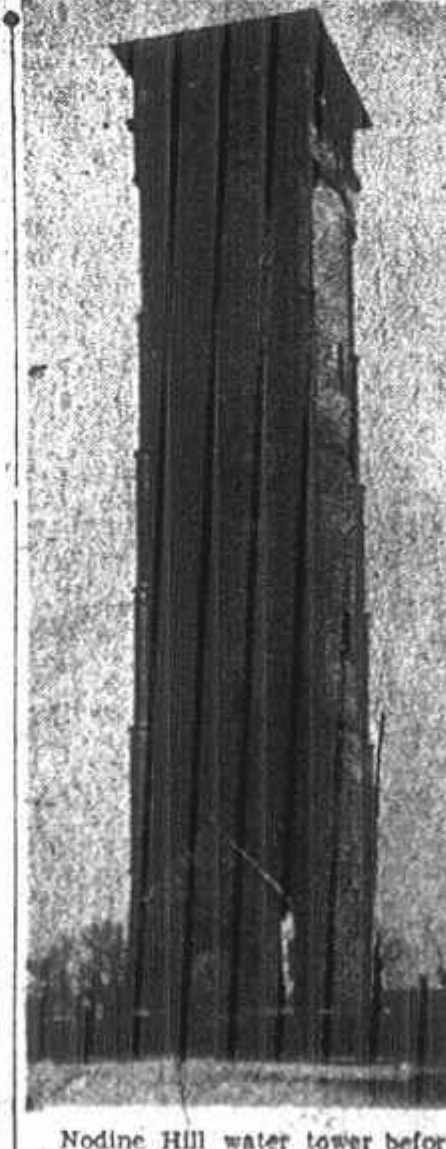
STRAW POLL RESULTS

Table with columns: Ward Total, Vote, For Mayor, For Council President, For Comptroller, For Justices of the Peace, For Assembly (4th Dist.), For Assembly (5th Dist.), City Manager.

1937 ward registration, 5,558; number of straw ballots cast in Fifth Ward, 501; total, 2,526. Straight Democratic ballots, ward, 174; total, 892; Straight Republican ballots, ward, 154; total, 849.

Enrollments indicated: Democrats, ward, 158; total, 827. Republicans, ward, 133; total, 803. Republicans voting for Loehr, ward, 8; total, 71; Democrats voting for Cotter, ward, 7; total, 44. Voted in 1935 for Loehr, ward, 137; total, 891; for Condon, ward, 105; total, 599.

(Monday—Sixth Ward)



Nodine Hill water tower before the collapse.

Water Deluges Car As Woman Tries To Flee

Residents of the hill near the water tower found their usually quiet early morning life disrupted with a suddenness that left some of them paralyzed with fear, others hysterical.

Friends gathered together for comfort in one another's apartments, or stood in little knots high up on their front porches, looking with unbelieving eyes at the crazy jumble of stones, bricks and mud where they had been accustomed to seeing the tall tower.

Mrs. Veronica Gotthardt of 228 Orchard Street, who was just driving down Prescott Street when the disaster struck, narrowly escaped serious injury. Her car was damaged.

"I was just making the turn into

(Continued on Page Four)

