

## Floods Cause Damage at Conesus Lake

by Bud Donahue - The Lima Recorder

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*Waters rushing into Conesus Lake*

### Rains Turn Brooks to Torrents in Record Time

#### Lake Level Goes Up 18 Inches Over Night

Sweeping in on Conesus Lake cottagers Monday came one of the worst flood scares in the history of the lake. Fed by many inlet streams coming down from the hills, the lake rose two and a half inches Monday night and about two more inches Tuesday to make the water level eighteen inches above the level of last Sunday.

Worst damage was done to homes located near the spots where many of the swollen streams rushed into the lake. At Long Point the Long Point Creek, usually a quiet stream in a wide and dry bed but now a torrent of logs and shale, overflowed its banks at a spot where the logs and loose foliage congested to form a natural dam.

The water began to sweep around and through the three or four cottages near the banks of the stream. Worst hit of these cottages was that of Charles Briggs of Rochester. Mud and water flowed through all of the cottages near the stream, however. Men carried all the furniture of the houses to higher spots and finally Harry Berry, manager of the Point, had to send for dynamite and the stream was freed and soon went down, leaving behind it piles of mud and shale.

Hit hard, likewise, was the Lakeville Park, where the lake rose and flowed out over the camping grounds and picnic pavilions. The bridge across the outlet stream to the park was closed off when the water reached bridge level. Campers in the park gathered their belongings and hurried away. Further over on the Lakeville park section, near the Pebble Beach road, water of the small creek there reached a height of about two or three feet above the banks, when it rushed around cottages there.

Down at the Maple Beach Inn the water in a small stream steadily rose until it had brought down enough logs and shale to dam the main current of the stream. Then, carrying tons of shale with it, the water spread out over half the grounds of the Inn. After working all night with a tractor, a crew of men managed to clear the stream of debris and it settled down to something nearer its normal level. When the water receded, it left behind a stretch of shale about a foot and a half deep and about a hundred square feet in area.

At Eagle Point, many on the north side of the Point were forced by the rain and storm to go home. The cottages of F. H. Leighton of Avon, J. P. Glelshauf of Rochester, Dr. F. W. Zimmer of Rochester, and R. J. Wixted of Rochester, were all surrounded by water. Rain water also flooded the Eagle Point tennis courts.

At the head of the lake Monday night the road was under about two inches of water for more than fifty feet. By Tuesday morning the miniature lake had disappeared. Along the west side road at one spot near Long Point the water flowed over the road, but on the older and lower east side road in five places the mud and stones from the streams had covered the road and in three places the road had caved in on the edges.

At McPherson's Point water was quite a bit quieter but high enough to cause a shifting of the main pier. Around the Lakeville end of the lake several cottages saw the water level up to what it is in the usual early spring floods.

The Rev. Dr. Graham of Lakeville and the eleven boys whom he had taken on a camping trip over on the Hemlock outlet knew there was a rain storm this week. When the gates at the outlet were opened, a flood of water three feet deep and 200 feet wide spread over the only road leading from their camp. Marooned there they were finally rescued by Carroll Acker and Eugene Hanna, who steered their autos along devious ways to points of safety. Another development of the camping experience was the appearance of a case of measles, contracted by Elwood Long, II.

Monday's steady downpour, with the consequent floods, did extensive damage to farm lands throughout the western New York area. Hundreds of acres were covered with water, crops were washed out, fields gutted and covered with stones and rubbish. In many cases, also, highways have been badly damaged.

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