



Photo by BILL KELLER

NEWLY OPENED DUMFRIES FIELD WAS RUINED BY WATER

Flash flood is 100-year type

Dumfries a disaster after flood

By BARBARA DUBUC

Town of Dumfries officials and the American Red Cross say that 15 households and businesses and the town's newly developed Alton J. Mountjoy ball field behind town hall were disastrously affected in Saturday morning's flash flood.

The flood is characterized as a "100-year-flood" and happened in "about five minutes," commencing at 4:30 a.m. It completely destroyed household goods in some of the homes on N. Main Street and on Mine Road. Ironically, the ball field which has been in use, was officially dedicated only hours after the flood.

Mayor Robert McClanahan says he will not be surprised if the total damages reach the million dollar mark. Two of the 15 affected are believed to have flood insurance, town officials say. Other persons interviewed say they were unable to obtain this coverage, and the damage is not covered by homeowner's insurance.

Since the flood, the town has requested information from the Federal Emergency Management Association about the availability of flood insurance. There is a federally-backed program, Board of Zoning Appeals administrator Grant Angel says, but it is complicated and apparently not all insurance agents are aware that it ex-

a further helping hand. The American Red Cross telephone number in Dumfries is 221-2161.

"We have spent \$5,000 of our disaster funds," says Ms. Krauth. "There is a great need for all kinds of flooring and carpets, couches, recliners, televisions, microwaves

VCR's, gas stoves, dryers, home furnaces, appliance repairs and other items which we are not in a position to replace."

Ms. Krauth says she is also trying to locate Mennonite groups which come into communities to help

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POSTS WERE WASHED AWAY AT BALLFIELD DURING FLOOD

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disaster victims.

Both the flood victims and town officials say that the flood seemed to occur in about five minutes' time. Police, who had been on watch and patrolling the area for hours, were caught by surprise.

So were members of the extended Bartley family who live in a row of houses in the 300 block of N. Main Street, stretching from the ACTS Thrift Store to the Automotive Foreign Parts store (AFD), owned by Jerry Bartley.

Water measured 40 inches inside the store, up to the fourth shelf, and Bartley estimates his business damages alone at \$70,000 to \$80,000. His home suffered damage as well.

Matriarch Ruby Bartley, who lives at 302 N. Main, had been keeping a close watch during the night. She lost furniture and carpeting in this flood. She is no stranger to this kind of disaster, as her home was

flooded three times previously in Hurricane Agnes in 1972, David in 1979, and another storm of a forgotten name which invaded in 1975.

Her storm watch and subsequent warning call may have saved Bedford Bartley's father-in-law's life.

"Mr. Hall was sleeping in the basement and when I called and woke him, water was already up to his mattress," she says.

Geneva Bartley Redder, who lives at 306 N. Main with her teenage daughter, lost her living room furniture, beds, \$900 worth of crafts, a collection of 2,000 cataloged books, 14 pair of shoes, some never worn, carpet, \$800 worth of duct work beneath the house, food, pots and pans—virtually everything she owned.

"We have never been able to get flood insurance," says Ms. Redder.

All of the Bartley family's automobiles were damaged in the

storm, as were other cars parked or garaged along N. Main Street.

Ricky Hogsett, his wife and children have lived at 501 Mine Road on the edge of Quantico Creek since January. They were away for the weekend when waters came up 21 inches inside his home.

"Ten feet of my newly seeded and mulched back yard washed down Quantico Creek and I had to haul all of my belongings to the dump," Hogsett said. "Luckily, some friends came by and released my dogs or they would have gone into the creek too."

Hogsett estimates \$15,000 in property damage, excluding his furniture and other personal items.

The office building at the corner of U.S. 1 and Mine Road, where radio station WDWB is located, was damaged. Station owner "Cousin Ray" reported \$8,500 of personal property lost, town officials say.

11 of those affected by supplying new beds, food, clothing and help- ing to clean up the mess, but ARC spokesperson Carrie Krauth is appealing to churches, businesses and members of the community to lend