

Management of the Colorado State Fair yesterday defied a State Board of Health order to close the fairgrounds to children because of the polio menace.

# WOMAN DROWNED IN FLASH FLOOD NEAR MT. MORRISON

By BERNARD BECKWITH  
Rocky Mountain News Writer

A flash flood, roaring out of the banks of Bear Creek, struck near Morrison last night, leaving one woman dead in its wake.

A pelting rainstorm east of Denver simultaneously sent thousands of gallons of water rushing down Cherry Creek, through Little and Big Dry Creeks.

The State Highway Patrol reported roads barely passable in the Morrison area. Several buildings in the town were inundated from a rain of near-cloudburst proportions but escaped major damage.

## Woman Swept to Death by Wall of Water

Mrs. Ruth Nooning, 38, of Morrison, lost her life when a wall of water swept her into Bear Creek as she was fleeing to safety a quarter-mile west of the town, State Highway Patrolman Dean Jarvis reported.

Mrs. Nooning, the wife of a Morrison livery stable owner, was caught in the raging current after she tried to leave her car and run to higher ground as the flood approached, Jarvis said.

Searchers under direction of Sheriffs George Koch of Jefferson County and Charles Foster of Arapahoe County abandoned an hours-long hunt for Mrs. Nooning's body, after darkness made further efforts impossible. The search will be resumed today.

Jarvis said Mrs. Nooning apparently became panicky after the wheels of her automobile became stuck in mud at the side of the road.

## Flood Waters Covered Autos

Occupants of cars within range of the flood left their machines and fled to higher terrain. The water rose to the tops of car doors before it receded last night.

Rock slides near Idledale and Kittredge snarled traffic until debris was cleared by road crews. Mountain Parks Patrolman Dominic Piccone said autos can move over the thoroughfare at a slow pace.

Several head of cattle were swept into Bear Creek by the violent but short-lived flood, the State Humane Society said. The rainstorm was coupled with a pelting hailstorm west of Morrison. The hail did not extend into the town.

Rain was continuing east of Denver in the vicinity of Parker, where Big and Little Dry Creeks push westward toward Cherry Creek.

## No Danger of Cherry Creek Flood

The impact of the storm to the east was not felt here until late last night, when water in the banks of Cherry Creek began to rise rapidly.

Despite the rising water level, authorities here discounted possibilities of a flood along Cherry Creek banks. They said the volume coming through the Kenwood Dam, near Sullivan, had not accelerated enough to become a hazard. Creek banks, they said, are high enough to forestall a flood here.

Fair Manager Frank H. Means told The Rocky Mountain News telephone he is "not taking action" on a telegraphic order Dr. Roy L. Cleere, secretary of Board of Health, to close the fair to children under 18.

## MEANS' ACTION IS FIRST BREAK IN COMPLIANCE

Means' action was the break in virtually statewide compliance with Board of Health recommendations that children be barred from public gatherings.

Dr. Cleere yesterday sent following telegram to Means: Dr. W. E. Buck, Pueblo city health officer:

"You are hereby directed to prohibit the attendance of children under 18 at the State Fair which opens next week."

The State Fair opens tomorrow. Dr. Cleere's curt order clinched a week of controversy over a ban on children to the fair.

Health Board previously had patched three telegrams to Park officials requesting that they be in line with other community organizations in excluding children from public gatherings.

## MEANS NOT WORRYING ABOUT OPENING FAIR

Dr. Buck, Means and City Commissioners Herman Klipfel and E. A. Morse met yesterday afternoon to study the order. At several-hour session, they decided to defer action until tonight. The three-man State Fair board will hold its pre-opening meeting.

The meeting "talked the matter over pro and con," Dr. Buck said. The News, but reached no decision.

It was decided to defer action on the state order in view of the absence from the city of the commissioner, Burt L. Beatty. In order to meet with the fair board tonight, he said. The board is composed of Means, George Hofman of Sterling and Carl Gilbert of Montrose.

Earlier, Means told The News he is "going right ahead" with plans for the fair opening and the order "isn't worrying me a bit." He indicated he would abide by his earlier decision to exclude children "if their parents can keep them away."

"I haven't changed my attitude at all," he said.

"I take orders from the Board of Health."

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Photo made here from injured.

Denver investigated R. Burke



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Rocky Mountain News August 25 1947 PG 5

# Rain Floods Sections Of Denver and Delays Aerial Show Program

A heavy rainstorm pelted Denver yesterday for the second time in two days, thoroughly wetting down the wings of the International Air Show and flooding streets in lower sections of the city.

The storm delayed start of the air show for an hour and a half, but most of the well-dampened crowd, estimated at 50,000 persons, stayed on to watch aerial acrobats dart in and out of low-hanging rain clouds.

## Alert to Flood Danger

Heavy rains hit most of the areas surrounding Denver, and authorities maintained a watchful alert against flood dangers.

Both Cherry Creek and Bear Creek rose in their banks, but did not reach the flood levels of Saturday night. At Morrison, authorities eyed swollen Bear Creek anxiously to guard against a repetition of Saturday night's tragedy when a flash flood swept Mrs. Ruth Noonning, 39, of Morrison, to her death. Her body was found yesterday.

Lightning hit three times in the Denver area, causing minor damage and setting one fire.

## Water 3 Feet Deep

Automobiles and pedestrians splashed through water three feet deep on some streets in the city where storm sewers could not carry away the sudden rush. Throughout most of the lower downtown district and in the Platte River bottoms, streets ran curb-to-curb with rainwater.

Heavy hail accompanied the storm in scattered East Denver areas, but no major damage was reported to buildings or gardens.

In several S. Broadway blocks, the rain overflowed curbs and flooded basements of stores and business places.

The rainfall was great in the

mountain areas west of Denver, where the State Highway Patrol reported traffic slowed during the height of the storm. Several minor accidents attributed to the blinding rain were reported.

Work crews in Morrison were kept busy yesterday repairing water mains weakened by Saturday night's flash flood and digging out tons of earth and rocks carried across streets by the high waters. The Hogback road to Denver remained blocked by soil and debris.

## Auto Races Rained Out

At Brighton, a Sunday afternoon program of auto races was rained out. Storm sewers at Englewood backed up and flooded many street intersections. Heavy rains also were reported at Golden and Arvada, but Littleton and Parker escaped with light showers.

A horseback searching party of three friends recovered the body of Mrs. Noonning early yesterday on the Braden farm, about three miles downstream from Morrison. Her husband, Edward I. Noonning, Morrison livery stable operator, had spent the night in an unsuccessful search for his wife's body.

## Body Wedged in Tree Roots

Sheriff George Koch said Mrs. Noonning's body was found wedged in the roots of an overturned tree.

Mrs. Noonning was swept into the raging current two blocks west of the Morrison business section when she sought to escape from her automobile, stalled by the high waters.

Lightning which hit the Western Electric Co. plant at 1175 Osage

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Monday, Aug. 26, 1946

Rocky Mountain News

August 26, 1946

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# Heavy Rains Flood Downtown Denver

(Continued From Page 5)

st. caused a small fire which damaged an electric motor. The blaze was quickly extinguished by firemen. Assistant Chief Earl Beeler estimated damage at about \$100.

## Fire Alarm Box Hit

Minor damage also was caused when another bolt hit a small brick building at 5400 W. 13th ave., in Lakewood. A third hit the fire alarm box at W. 38th ave. and Shoshone st., blowing a fuse and putting the alarm system out of service locally for more than an hour until repairs were made.

At Stapleton Airfield, U. S. Weather Bureau observers reported three-tenths of an inch of precipitation fell in less than two hours. The storm moved across the city to the southeast, the bureau said. Scattered afternoon and evening showers are forecast for today.

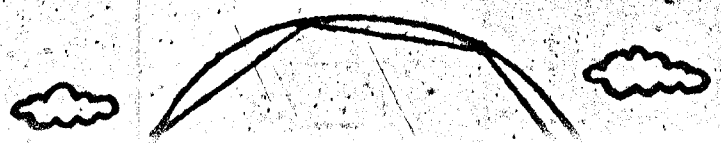
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August 26, 1949

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