

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

May 5, 1960

The worse flooding in years had rivers and streams galloping over their banks chasing people from their homes and causing damage to public roads and private property. The Hemlock River in Amasa had risen over 10' above what is considered normal levels. The Amasa School was an island and Parks Farm Road Bridge was washed 100 yards downstream. The Bates-Amasa Bridge on County Road 643 had water up to the handrails. The deck of the Memory Lane Bridge on Hwy 141 crossing over the Paint River was under several inches of water where the water level is usually 11' lower. Three gates of the Crystal Falls Power Plant Dam were wide open and the flood waters still poured over the retaining walls. A large part of the flat area surrounding the bridge at the bottom of Superior Avenue was flooded with the Paint River expanded to more than twice its normal width. Others rivers including the Net, Fence and Michigamme were overflowing their banks. The local conditions were part of those experienced throughout the entire Western half of the Upper Peninsula

High Water On Paint And Hemlock

The Hemlock and Paint rivers, swelled by spring rains, went on a rampage a weekend ago, turning fields and low spots into lakes and creating wide lagoons along its course that in some cases made homes unliveable. The flood waters began to recede on Tuesday of last week but not before they had caused an unestimated amount of damage to private and public property. The photographs were taken by the Drill photographer a week ago Monday when the flooding had reached its most extensive stage.



NO ACCESS—There was no access to the Hematite township schools at Amasa early last week as the Hemlock River, swelled by rains, rose to make an island of the knoll on which the building is located. Classes could not be held on either Monday or Tuesday. The force of the water has eaten away the base of an asphalt surface road above, and broken the hard surface into huge chunks.



THE GEORGE DAHL HOME at Memory Lane appears to be afloat as the river makes a lagoon of the lowland area just east of the US-141 bridge. Across the river from the Dahl home, five cabins of the Memory Lane Resort shared a similar fate.



NO CLEARANCE—The normal clearance between the Bates-Amasa bridge on county road 643 and the Paint river which it spans is 11 feet. When this picture was taken a week ago Monday, water was up to the hand rails.



TWICE AS WIDE—The Paint river at the M-69 bridge at the foot of Superior avenue was more than twice as wide as normal last week as three gates at the power plant were opened to allow spring flood waters to pass through. The water level was perhaps five feet above normal at this point.