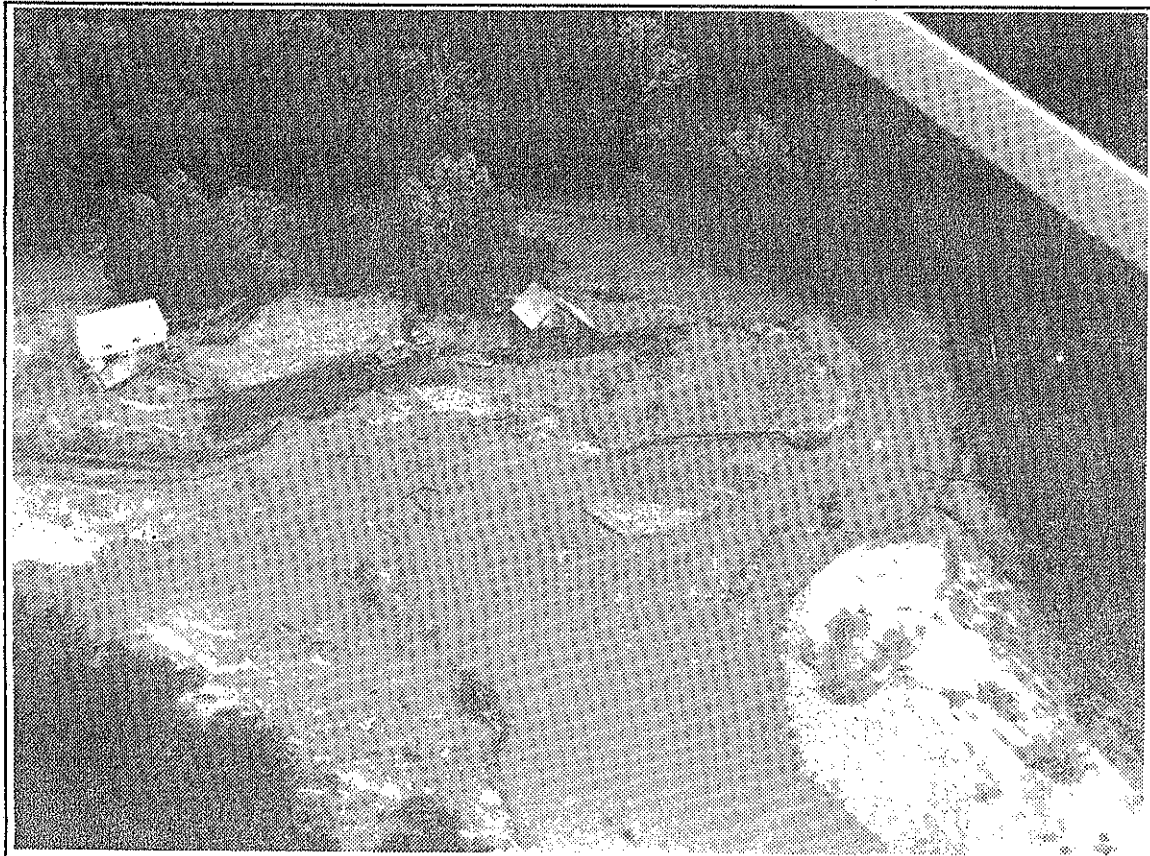
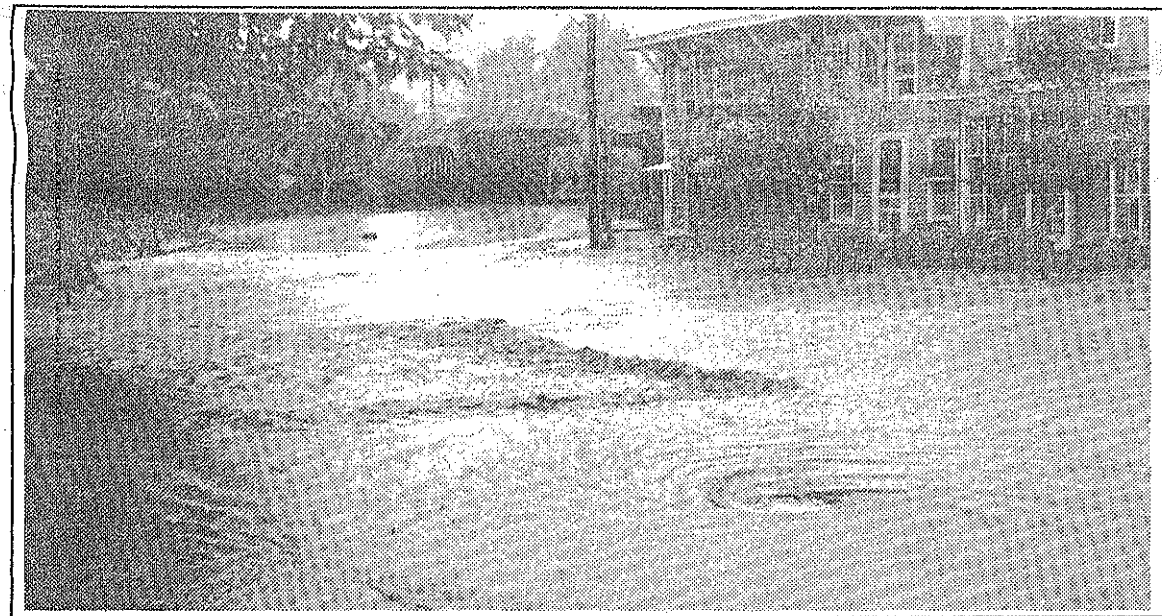


# Flash flooding leaves mess, mud, no lives lost



An aerial view, made possible by Warren pilot Jim Parker, shows the degree to which the Mad River breached its banks. Shown on the left is the wreckage of Jeff Allen's house and Laura Peterson's trailer. The Corbeil home on the right also suffered flood damage. Photo: LAL



Bridge Street in Waitsfield became a lake when flood waters stretched from the marketplace shopping center up to the back of the white Waitsfield house and spread across Bridge Street. This photo was taken at 6:30 a.m. when the water had begun to recede. Photo: LAL



Hay bales and an abandoned van adorn the bottom of the Tremblay Road in Waitsfield where flood waters crossed Route 100 on June 27. Photo: LAL

by Lisa Loomis

Last weekend's flash flood was the equivalent of a 500-year flood, according to Barry Cahoun, stream bank alteration engineer for the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

Cahoun said the flooding, which has garnered The Valley and other parts of Central Vermont federal disaster status, was of a magnitude seldom seen, and never, in recent history, recorded.

Extremely heavy and pervasive rain fell on just twenty percent of the Mad River's water shed area between Friday night and Saturday morning, June 26 and 27. The rain followed many days of rain and found The Valley saturated. The heavy rains fell on Warren, Stetson Hollow, south of Warren, and in the Lincoln Mountain area. The upland streams outgrew their banks and the water rushed into the Mad River at high speeds, sending ever rising waters rushing northward.

"When we measured the volume of water at the U.S.G.S. gauge north of Moretown, it came in as a fifty year flood, but that is not really representative because it doesn't take into account that the water came from just twenty percent of the river's watershed. The water, measured in Warren, was a foot above the 100 year flood level, which would make it a 500 year flood," Cahoun said.

Stream banks in the tributaries that feed the Mad River, from Stetson Hollow to the Sugarbush Access Road, burst out of their boundaries, eating up and eroding roads, yards, trees, and more as the water

headed for the Mad River. In the aftermath of last weekend's flooding, local emergency workers kept an eye on the river while local officials worked with Federal Emergency Management Agency personnel (FEMA), the Red Cross, state officials and visiting politicians, showing them the extent of the damage and where help is needed.

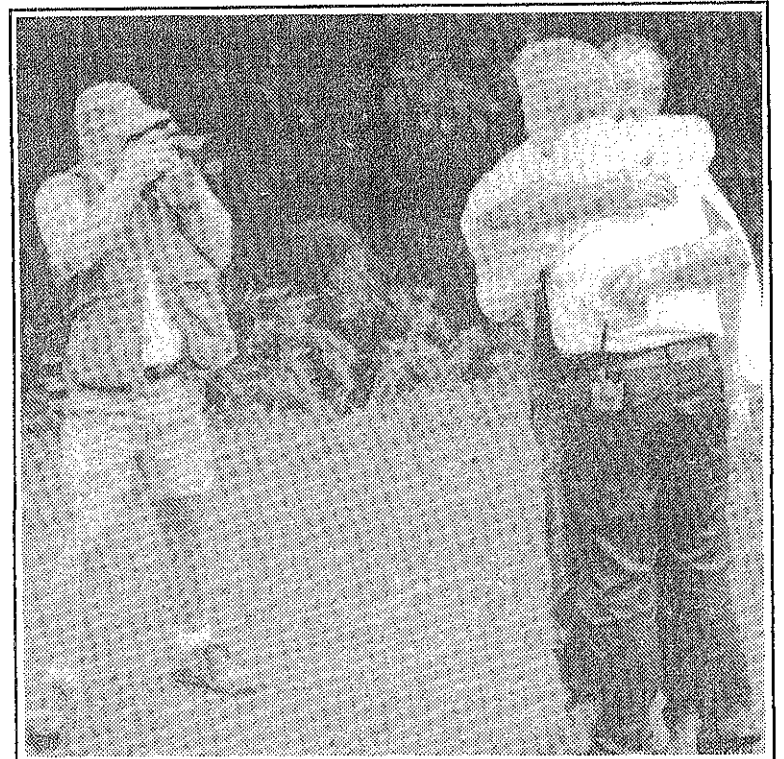
Road crews from throughout The Valley and Sugarbush came to the aid of the towns and roads with the greatest need while friends and volunteers helped those whose homes and businesses were damaged by the flood.

The three people who were rescued from a home amidst the flood waters in Warren are reported to be recovering and all those who were up all night seeing to their rescue and the safety of others had tried to catch up on lost sleep.

The fast flash flood swept through The Valley from Warren to Moretown, starting just after midnight on July 27. Flood waters peaked in Warren and Waitsfield as early as 6:00 a.m., according to some, and in Moretown between 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. By noon, clean up had begun and by Sunday, July 28, Governor

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Flood photos in this issue of The Valley Reporter were taken by John Williams, Chris Behn, Hillary McAllister, Jeffrey Rice, Russ Bennett, Ken Felderman, Barbara Bonan, Michelle Boleski, Keith Davidson, Al Benjamin, Phil King, and Lisa Loomis.



Jim Hood hugs Mad River Valley Ambulance Service's David Clark after Hood was rescued from a precarious perch during the June 27 flood. Photo: KFD