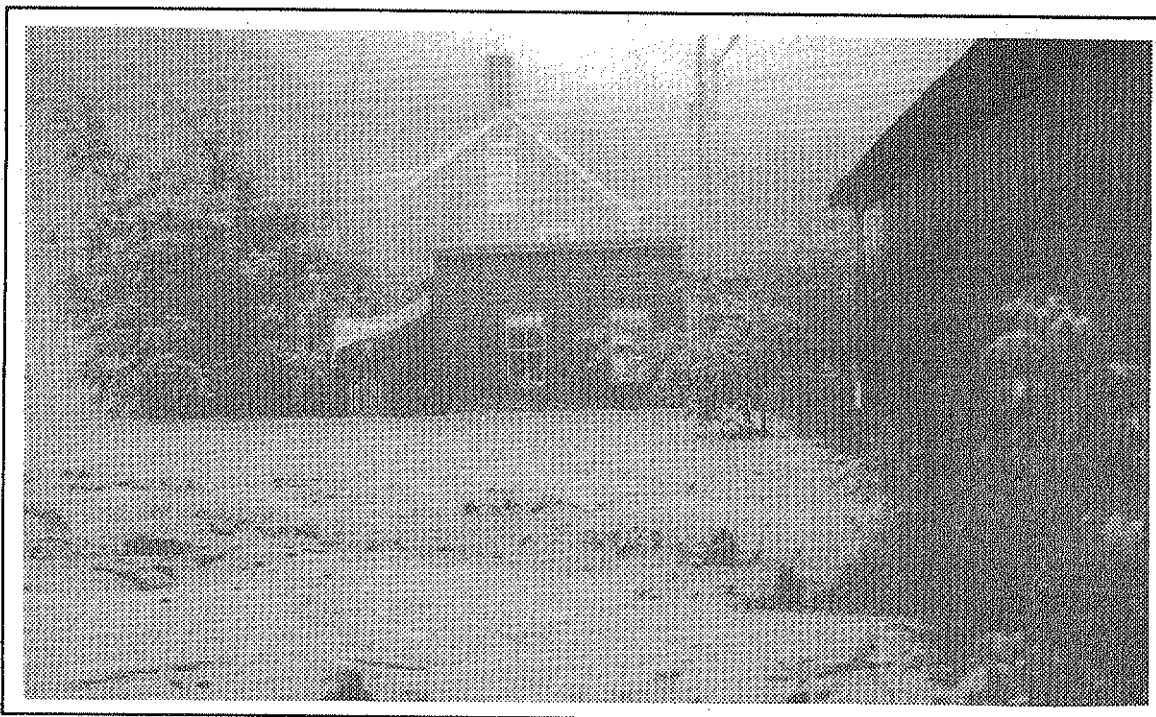




State sign barely kept its message above water in a field across from



From the uphill side of the covered bridge in Waitsfield, the water rages on Bridge Street.

Waitsfield experienced moments of isolation

In Waitsfield, fire chief Delbert Palmer got the emergency call at 2:00 p.m. when he was asked if he knew there was flooding in Warren. He went down to look at the river, paged out his fire department, and "then all hell broke loose," he said.

The river continued to rise, coming up to within six inches of the covered bridge, covering the center of Bridge Street with three feet of water and closing many sections of Route 100 between Moretown and Warren.

"At one point, we were completely cut off," Palmer said.

That kind of isolation was scary because Palmer feared

the water would keep rising and he'd have no way to evacuate people. Route 100 was breached by the Mad River in many places: the river crossed Route 100 near Hartshorn's farm stand, by the Pines Rest area, by Waitsfield Telecom, at Bridge Street, and at one point, by Cory's Automotive, there was two feet of water on the road Palmer said.

Water covered the road at the Lareau Farm, two feet of it, and firefighters were traveling around in tall four-wheel drive vehicles, Palmer said.

"I think everyone came together very well, with the volunteers and police working very well together even though

we don't have an emergency management plan. We're going to have one from now on," Palmer promised.

The river started going down around 6:00 a.m. he said, and since it receded, Palmer and others have been watching the river with a wary eye as rain and flood warnings have continued throughout the week.

Select board chair Elwin Neill Jr. said the town's roads had come through the flood pretty well.

"The worst damage we had was to the Butternut Hill bridge and the road itself. The approach to the bridge was washed out and a tenth of a mile of the road washed out to

about five feet deep," Neill said.

"On Sherman Road, almost a half mile of road washed out and there was some washing on the Rolston road and at the Pines, Tremblay Road," he said.

Repair efforts are under way, with work on getting the Butternut Hill bridge open beginning on Saturday afternoon. That bridge was re-opened on Sunday and road repairs are under way slowly. Those repairs are hampered by the fact that loaded trucks can't cross the posted bridge.

"We need to find a source for material on the other side of the bridge," he said.

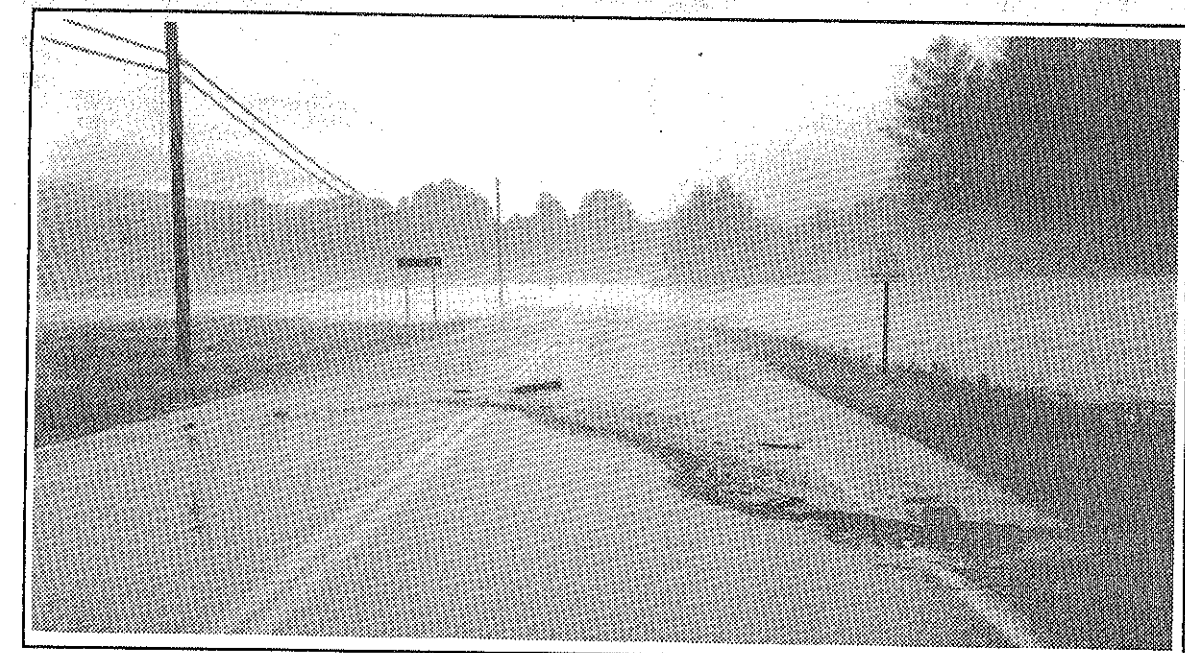
Neill took Federal Emergency Management Agency personnel around Waitsfield on Sunday, showing them the damage to the Couple's Club rec field, the rec path, Bridge

Street and other locales.

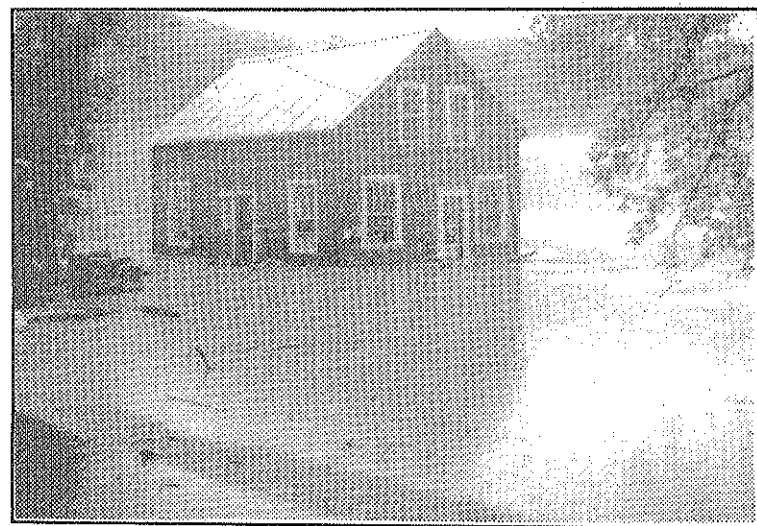
"A lot of businesses were damaged on Bridge Street. The bridge itself took a few pretty good raps from propane tanks and trees. We closed it until we could get it inspected by the state. It was reopened Saturday afternoon. The Bridge Street businesses took a hit. The McTigues lost the foundations of the teddy bear shop and the Christmas shop.

The Blue Building with the bakery, and the thrift shop lost its foundation. The flood filled an artists studio, Baked Beads and Concepts Publishing. There was a lot of loss of personal property and business equipment. There was some water in the town offices and diesel fuel floated out of the tanks in the yellow building which the fire department cleaned up," Neill detailed.

—LAL

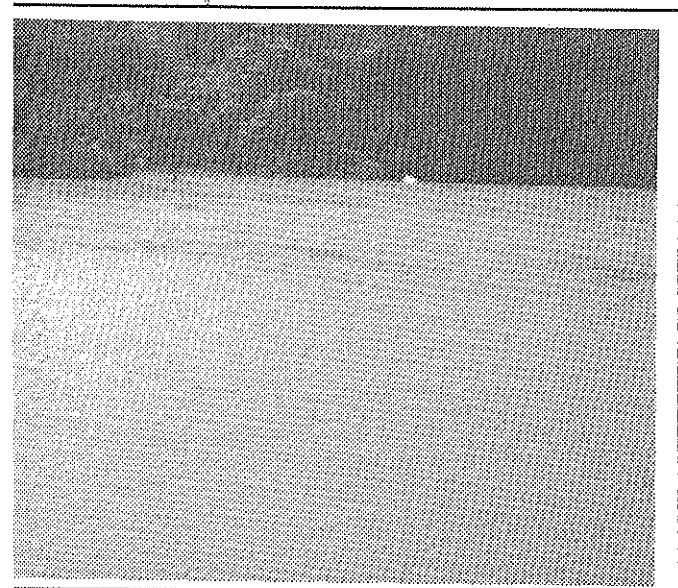


The Mad River crossed Route 100 in many places, here in front of Waitsfield Telecom.



John Bridgewater's Bridge Street home became an island.

s underwater in Moretown



East Maynard's, looking north and east.

and the cemetery where flood waters were breaching the road.

They were rescued by a tall truck and eventually taken home to Winooski by Moulton's in-laws.

"The water came up to the fire station and we had to move the trucks. Then the water went across Route 100B to John and Annette Schultz's. We closed down Route 100B by Steven's Brook a little after 8:00 a.m. and then just waited for the water to go down, which it finally started to do around noon," Moulton, who is also a member of the select board,

said.

While waiting for the water to go down, Moretown firefighters pumped out basements in the village where 14 homes were flooded. The Goodyear home on Route 100B was also flooded. The water covered the fields and road almost all the way to the small bridge immediately after Maynards farm stand. From the bridge, looking north, it appeared as if a giant lake with tree islands, stretched all the way to the back towards the River Road. The Moretown gorge was a roaring wall of water and it appeared as if the bridge it runs under would be damaged, but

Moulton said that the bridge was fine.

The cemetery on the corner, however, he said, suffered some damage and FEMA officials had been notified. There was other damage in Moretown, mostly to dirt roads. Several roads have been damaged and some closed or reduced to one lane. Lover's Lane is badly damaged and closed, according to town clerk Susan Goodyear. She said Wright Road, as well as a few others, has been reduced to one lane traffic. She urged caution in using all roads and lanes in the town.

—LAL