

# Cloudburst Causes Flood at Wheeler

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**Muddy Creek Reached the Highest Level in Three-quarters of a Century Sunday Night After Rain**

Wheeler was cleaning up Monday following a flood which brought the waters of Muddy creek into houses and stores, Sunday night, following a cloudburst. The rain, said to have brought six inches of precipitation in less than two hours, flooded all of the main part of the village until the creek subsided.

Water covered Route 33 to a depth of eighteen inches or more and came up three feet into the house of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin S. James on the west side of the creek just south of the bridge. Water also got into the Emile Meurlott barber shop, the Leturno store, Redman garage, Wright seed house, and the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Morehead, causing considerable damage in each instance.

Between 100 and 150 feet of track west of the Muddy creek bridge in Wheeler was washed out for the Illinois Central railroad when the flood waters surged through there, carrying the ballast under the track with them. Charles Hazelton, section foreman, had a gang of men at work Monday morning repairing the damage. Meanwhile operation of freight trains between Effingham and Palestine was again stopped.

## **Six Inch Rain**

The rain was estimated by Virgil R. Musgrove, Wheeler garage mechanic, at six and one-quarter inches. "I had a container outside and it contained six and a quarter inches of water on Monday morning," he said. "The rain began about 9:00 o'clock and lasted less than two hours, being over before 11:00 o'clock."

Residents of Wheeler stated that Muddy creek was the highest in more than three-quarters of a century, while farmland in the vicinity of Wheeler was under water when the ditches proved inadequate to carry the rain away. Route 33 was under water Monday morning from the Hal Carr corner a mile west of Lis for a distance of a quarter of a mile east to Laws creek, and during the night it had been a foot or more over the pavement from two miles west of Dieterich to Lis, drivers who passed there after midnight Sunday reported Monday morning.

A group of Newton young women had to abandon their auto at Wheeler when it stalled about 12:30 o'clock in going over the Muddy creek bridge, and it was later overturned by the rushing water. Considerable damage was done to road culverts where the water ran across the country roads.