Special

ABLISHED IN 1873. THREEPENCE.

20 PAGES WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5th, 1960

THE TIVERTON NEWS and WELLINGTON GAZETTE

# FLOODS PLAY HAVOC IN EXE AND

CULM VALLEYS

# "Old Enemy's" Vicious Attacks at Tiverton

# HOUSES, SHOPS AND STORES NAMAGED: VIVID NARRATIVES

ILED for two years into a sense of false security, Tiverton was hit swiftly and with devastating effect on Saturday morning by the old enemy—the floods. Torrential rain night on already saturated ground peaked a run-off with which rivers and streams could The Lowman burst its banks. A torrent swept down Blundell's Road, inundating orks and stores en route, and piling at Lowman Green into a swirling mass of muddy-brown which, because of its depth, halted traffic and virtually cut the town in two. The water and into shops and houses. The occupiers, re-living their worst memories, fought an successful rearguard action as they were driven upstairs.

In the district, the River Exe also could not cope with flood water far beyond the normal in the Stoke Canon area. In addition to the spectacular submersion of roads, in which masport of all kinds was halted, and the widespread interruption to telephone services, the always were damaged to an unusual degree. At Newton St. Cyres, the washing-away of a adge left the permanent way suspended, bringing the service to a standstill on either side. When conditions were at their worst, road and rail communications to the South of Exeter

were completely cut. For Tiverton itself, the flooding was a blow to hopes which were raised last March when the Borough Council were told that Devon River Board proposed to spend £50,000 on a scheme which would end once and for all these destructive visitations. It is understood that the Board's scheme is in the course of preparation. The Borough Public Health Committee met on Monday afternoon, and it is believed that the floods were one of the matters discussed. There is likely to be further and fuller discussion when the full Borough Council

meet next Monday. The final factor—the prelude to week-end disaster at Tiver-ton—was the torrential rain of Friday night, and the result was dramatic. At about half-past ten on Saturday morning, the Lowman rose with startling rapidity, and overflowed its banks. The resultant flooding allowing vehicles through the

ditions rapidly became chaotic as motorists tried to beat the quickly-rising waters and be-came stranded in the flood.

### Traffic diverted

The police, under Inspector W. J. R. Acton and Sergt, Jack Harris, with the help of the Special Constabulary under Area Officer L. J. Parminter, did yeoman service throughout the day.

Were purst in and the frame and drinking Mr. Button's ale. That infuriated me more than anything else!" Mr. Levine added with a smile.

Were purst in and the frame and drinking Mr. Button's ale. That infuriated me more than anything else!" Mr. Levine added with a smile.

Were purst in and the frame and drinking Mr. Button's ale.

The following the wash set that infuriated me more than anything else!" Mr. Levine added with a smile.

Were purst in and the frame and drinking Mr. Button's ale.

The following the wash set that infuriated me more than anything else!" Mr. Levine added with a smile.

Road junction had reached a already 14 inches or more high of the Lowman Works and are depth of nearly four feet, they in his offices was washed below water-level, were decided to divert all vehicles still higher. Apart from the flooded to a depth of nine low enough to go under the inconvenience caused by the inches. The fire brigade moved arch through the yard of the flooding, he added, not much the flood boards on Sunday in Tiverton Motor Company to material damage was done. One order to get their engines up connect with Blundel's Road of the servicing pits was at the car park entrance. The flooded, and was being emptied wash of a heavy vehicle had crushed in three plate-giass Monday morning.

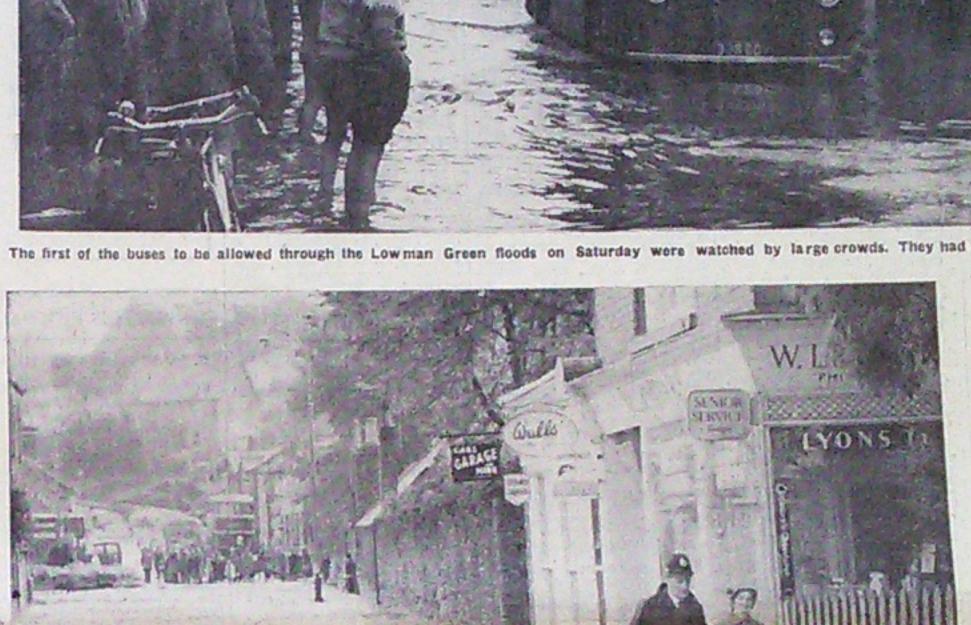
On Sunday, at the Island Dairy on Lowman Green, the flood boards on Sunday in the

in Tiverton was the worst since the time of the Lynmouth disaster, and—in the road became impassable, opinion of some people—was always happens when the Lowman Bursts its banks, was limited to the Lowman bursts its banks, was in the Lowman Green-Blundell's Road area. Here, conditions rapidly became cheated a part of the Lowman Green-Blundell's Road area. Here, conditions rapidly became cheated a laws the flooding to the since the time of the Lynmouth distance the department having to be redepartment having to be redepartment having to be redepartment having to be removed the flooding the indepartment having to be redepartment having to be redepartment having to be removed the flooding the had ever excelled the department having to be removed the flooding the had ever excelled the department having to be removed the flooding the had ever excelled the department having to be removed the flooding the had ever excelled the department having to be removed the flooding to the read became impassable. In the flooding the had ever excelled the department having to be removed the flooding the had ever excelled the department having to be removed the flooding to be removed the flooding the had ever excelled the department having to be removed the flooding the had ever excelled the departm

#### Too fast

ween Lowman Bridge and the through the garage yard so Twose (Manufacturing). Ltd. venience, but our loss, on the affic island at the Blundell's fast that the flood water, which stand in the main drive whole, was relatively low."

Dilu mental description of the stand in the main drive whole, was relatively low."



Constable W. H. Daniels was at hand when this woman wished urgently to get through the floods into the town. He helped

her through water which in places was nearly four feet deep.

was proof positive that the find the workmen using an bridges over the Lowman were holding back the flood waters.

Too fast

Too fast

find the workmen using an worked out we suffered relatively little damage." Councillor W. P. Authers (managing director of Messrs, Stenners of lor Authers added Tiverton Ltd.) told us. "We have learned to get around to The aged to get around to The low of the river looks like the river looks l aged to get around to The He said the plate-glass win-dows in the car showrooms the men playing billiards there were burst in and the frame and drinking Mr. Button's ale.

have worked out a definite flood drill, and by the time the our flood precautions into flooding looked like being operation." He mentioned that serious we had got all the the works canteen alongside equipment and machines which the Lowman Green car park, might have suffered damage brought into operation a fortabove the water-level. I well above the water-level. I night previously, was also should say the actual loss is flooded, but they had time to about £100, but, of course, in get up the linoleum. In the addition to that we had several offices on Lowman Green, all people in on mopping-up the files and papers were operations on Sunday. It has moved to safety early on

Continued on page six in its proper channel," as one writer of the period recorded.

the river looks like rising, we Better

#### **FLOODS** THROUGH THE CENTURIES

#### Troublesome Lowman

DISASTER from floods often has been the experience of Tiverton. The Exe, during the centuries, has caused a great deal of mischief, but it is the Lowman which has proved to be the more troiblesome, because of the frequency of its inundations.

It is a sluggish stream whose bed has a tendency to silt up, and in addition there are several small bridges which impede the free passage of the water. So it has hapneded that Lowman Green and the main road near Old Blundell's repeatedly have been

One such flood occurred on 19th October, 1875, when the water rose to a height of five feet. There were three successive inundations within eight months in 1800. One of them.

### GAUGES TELL THE RAIN STORY

Mr. and Mrs. F. Davy up to their ankles in flood water in the

siting room of their home. No. 1, Blundell's Road, Tiverton.

### September's torrential exit

Tiverton, Mr. E. G. Peirce, of Cowleymoor Lodge, Tiverton, told us the 24 hours ending at 9 a.m. GM.T. on Saturday produced 2.25 inches of rain, ringing the September total to the quite abnormal arel of 5.57 inches. During the past ten years the trerage for September has been 3.98 inches.

Mr. Peirce, who has been the past 31 years, has found the September average pared with only 21.69 inches in the corresponding period last there have been been says there have been several year sever up to two inches-Jumg Saturday night, Mr. tre added, there was another fall of 1.45 inches.

pant of

Mr. A. G. Smale (6.01 4 239 inches on the 27th the by being the highest for one line line 15th August, 1952. in 2.38 inches fell in 24 fr. In September, 1956, 6.90 Were recorded on 19 The total for the first

Bradninch. — At Bradninch fell on 13 days during ember, totalling 5.26 inches. a last four days of the month the day's total being 2.28 the This was the greatest to 24 hours since 18th July. when there was 2.58 (Mountshayne). From midnight to noon

tording Tiverton's weather 32.28 inches of rain had been

Uffculme.-The first half of ords of under two inches, the month was below average in rainfall, but the last four days, with a total of almost 3 inches, made it the wettest September at Silverton Mr. F. C. Doldge. In fact, the observer points out that the past month was approximately 22 times as wet as the corresponding month last year, and that the last day of September, with 1.63 inches, was the wettest day since 9th June, 1957. A total of 4.73 inches fell on 15 days, and October commenced with 1.05 inches on the 1st. Even months of 1960 is 32.92 with these heavy falls it is more than probable that Uffculme has had less rainfall than other places in East

Hemyock.-At Hemyock, the wiced 3.44 inches. The rainfall from 8 a.m. on Friday. to 8 a.m. on Saturday was 2.93 inches, the highest 24 hour figure since records have been taken by Mr Brian Clist

28th 1.14 inches was measured at Morebath Manor September this year was the highest for any weekthe wettest since 1956, when end for some years. In the than 6 inches was three days the total was 4.26 Street The average rainfall inches made up of 2.03 for the September at Bradninch is 24 hours ending at 9 a.m. on the street and last year there Saturday, 1.79 for Sunday and the street and last year there Saturday, 1.79 for Sunday and street and last year there saturday. caly 0.23 inches. A total of .99 ending at 9 a.m. on Monday.



With flood water pouring through their houses from front to back, there was nothing these unfortunate residents in Blundell's Road, Tiverton, could do but to stand at their doors and wait.

## Oily mud

mud. Even the bottom shelves were coated with it, and when Mrs. Burge tried to cook a mid-day meal she found that the cooker had first to be

Mrs. Burge told our reporter that she received no warning at all of the onset of the flood. She was watching the rise of the Lowman from a front window when, all of a sudden, water poured into the house from the rear. She was in despair about the slimy mud. "I don't know how we shall get rid of it." she said.

Mr. Burge was on his hands and knees cleaning up the mess with his hands. He said he had used over 40 buckets of water already, and it had made little impression on the mud,

ered that no effort had been made during the Summer to clear it, and it was partly blocked by weeds. Mr. Burge mentioned that between 10.30 a.m. and 7 p.m., when a customer called for a pint of milk, it had been impossible to do any business at

In a comment about the

Lowman, Mrs. Burge consid-

#### "Up in arms"

all from the shop.

Mr G. H. Perring, who took over Lindars, the greengrocery and confectionery business on Lowman Green, a fortnight before the floods of two years ago, again had the premises flooded, this time to a depth of almost two feet in the shops and three downstairs

rooms. He told our reporter, "Fortunately, a family friend came and helped us, and we were we suffered was due to the!

Clearly Priced and with a Guarantee that REALLY means something

1959 WOLSELEY 15/60, Navy blue, Heater, Screen washers £750 DO A GOOD blue/black Heater. cwner. Taxed 31/12/60 DEAL - BETTER

> 1958 STANDARD VANGUARD PHASE washers, radio. One owner. Taxed £595

1959 TRIUMPH HERALD SALOON, Duotone mauve white. Heater, One wner Taxed 31/12/60 £595

1959 MORRIS MINOR TRAVELLER. Grey. Heater. Radio. Screen washers. One owner. Taxed 31/12/60

MORRIS MINOR 4-DOOR DE LUXE. Grey. Hester. One owner, Taxed 1958 FORD ANGLIA DE LUXE. Blue

with blue leather upholstery. Heater, One owner, Taxed 31/12/60 £425 LOWEST HIRE PURCHASE TERMS

YOUR OWN CAR TAKEN IN PART EXCHANGE

MAIN SHOWROOMS OPEN UNTIL 8 P.M.

Jomerset Motors

able to move most of our stuff out of danger. The only loss TAUNTON 1281 WILLITON 11 LANGPORT 205 EAST LYNG 202