

**West Hartford**

# All Town's Streets Open, Helicopter Lift Operates

All West Hartford streets are open to traffic and emergency road repairs have been made, West Hartford police said Saturday night. Mayor Harold F. Keith and Minority Leader Richard P. Smith toured the town Saturday after directing the town health, building, street and engineering departments to keep skeleton crews on duty, over the week end.

Meanwhile, a helicopter lift was operated from the Kingswood School grounds to Winsted and Collinsville, supplying areas with cots, blankets and food. This service was arranged through the efforts of Councilman Roger W. Hayward.

Hayward went into action after Army trucks delivered the cots, blankets and food to the Legion Home here. Earlier, messages were received that these were needed in the Winsted and Collinsville areas. Why they were delivered to West Hartford was not immediately known.

Hayward contacted Brig. Gen. George R. Stanley, commander of the Air National Guard. Gen. Stanley arranged for two helicopters to land at Kingswood School. The flights were made out of Kingswood throughout the day Saturday.

Because of hazardous conditions in some areas, Mayor Keith and Councilman Smith ordered emergency road repairs made Saturday. The State Highway Dept. will do a permanent job later.

Approaches to the South Quaker Lane bridge were also repaired after the tour.

Other critical areas in town were inspected by the Mayor, Councilman Smith, and representatives of the various town departments during the day.

**Drive Opens**

Meanwhile, members of the Mayes-Velhage Post and Auxiliary, A.L., opened a drive for clothing, home furnishings and blankets. These will be first offered to local flood victims, after which they will be made available to surrounding communities. Persons wishing to help out may leave the items at the home of Legion Commander John R. Silvey, 416 Park Rd., or call ADams 3-6559.

Oswald E. D'Arche of 1530 Boulevard, who estimated the damage to his home at \$4,000, said Saturday night that he was forwarding a \$25 check to The Court to help other flood victims "whom really need it. The D'Arche said, "is nothing compared to that of persons in Winsted, Torrington and other areas.

The Street Department Satur-

day dumped loads of stone on Fornridge Drive to make the road passable.

Meanwhile, West Hartford residents were busy Saturday cleaning up. Cellars, and even first floors, were pumped or drained out, and most residents evacuated from their homes Friday morning were back in their dwellings putting them back into shape.

Much damage was done to business establishments in the vicinity of Trout Brook and the Park River, but no estimates could be made by officials Saturday.

At American Motors Inc., employes worked for hours, before the flood reached the area, moving cars to high ground on the northeast corner of New Britain and New Park avenues.

During the emergency Friday, about 20 families were evacuated from their homes by boat. Manning the boats were policemen under Sgt. John B. Keegan and Sgt. Stephen Penfield. Many of them were taken to the Legion Home where they were fed by the Hayes-Velhage Post and Auxiliary.

Police, firemen and auxiliary policemen have been working steadily since Mayor Keith declared a state of emergency Friday. They aided in rescue work in addition to the huge task of keeping traffic moving.

Officials urged residents not to go sight-seeing today. Although local streets are open, there are areas in which traffic jams can hamper essential work. This coincided with a plea by Gov. Ribicoff urging all state residents to stay off the streets if possible so as not to hamper rescue operations.

**State Convention**

St. Bridget's Fife and Drum Corps, organized two years ago, placed third in its class at the 70th annual state convention of the Connecticut Fifers and Drummers Assn. in East Hartford Saturday. It was the first time the local corps had placed in a state convention. It competed in the modern fife and drum class, which was won by Our Lady of Sorrows of Hartford.

In the Feminine Class, St. Mark's of West Hartford defeated St. Augustine's for top place.

# West Hartford Rescues Described As Like Watching Gondolas In Venice

By Owen Griffith

We lived through another flood—the worst ever. Living on Linnard Road in West Hartford was like watching the boatmen ply their gondolas through the canals of Venice.

My wife and I returned from our vacation in Denver Colo., a few hours before the rains began on Thursday.

At midnight it was evident there was going to be a bad situation and we started moving our household goods to the second floor. At 3:30 a.m. we called a friend James Ellis, associate principal of King Phillip Drive School.

Everything was hauled to what we thought was comparative safety on the second floor, but the water gradually crept up over the handle of the living room floor door. Outside on the lawn a seven foot trellace was completely covered.

A neighbor, Richard B. Redfield, appeared with a rowboat equipped with an outboard motor, and he plied up and down

the streets offering assistance to residents near the swollen Trout Brook.

Our helper, Jim Ellis, had to leave for an emergency call to a dentist and he was taken off by boat which was pushed into our living room.

As this was written at 10:30 a.m. the flood appeared to have reached its level in this area but the rain continued.

About 11:30, my wife and myself were rescued by Norman L. French of the Travelers Insurance Co., and his 17-year-old son Billy, with the aid of a rowboat which was manned by Jim Ellis.

The boat was again pushed into the front hall. Prior to be taken out we were without radio or telephone but got news of the flood situation through a second floor window from our next door neighbor Dick Gray of Gray's Sport Shop.

Among the errands of mercy performed by Dick Redfield was the rescuing of a young baby from a house across the street.