

08-09-1955 Farmington CT – Charles J Yodkins Sr – LEO Boat Flood



OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL PAGE

REMEMBERING ALL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S HEROES

<http://www.odmp.org/officer/14606-patrol-officer-charles-yodkins-sr>



Bio & Incident Details

Age: 43

Tour: Not available

Badge # Not available

Cause: *Drowned*

**Patrol Officer
Charles Yodkins, Sr.**

Farmington Police Department, Connecticut

End of Watch: Friday, August 19, 1955

Officer Yodkins drowned while attempting to rescue a couple who were trapped in flood waters in River Glen. Officer Yodkins had already successfully rescued several other stranded residents and was attempting another rescue when his boat capsized.

Officer Yodkins was posthumously awarded a Carnegie Hero Medal for his actions that day. On the 50th anniversary of his death he was also posthumously awarded his department's Medal of Valor.

Charles J Yodkins Sr

August 19 1955 FLOOD

Honoring Heroes Of The '55 Flood

<http://xml.dailypress.com/topic/hc-55flood-far-heroes,0,6912341.story>

August 20, 2005 By DAVID OWENS | Courant Staff Writer

FARMINGTON - Friday afternoon, half a century to the day after so many risked their lives to save so many more from raging flood waters, people

gathered along the now quiet Farmington River to honor two heroes.

Charles J. Yodkins Sr. and Joseph J. Morin Jr. did not know each other before that day the Farmington River poured out of its banks and washed away people, houses and entire neighborhoods.

Yodkins, a 43-year-old Farmington police officer who had already rescued several people that day, learned of a family stranded by the rising waters at their home in the River Glen neighborhood. He went in search of a boat to rescue the Frey family.

Morin, a 22-year-old University of [Connecticut](#) senior with plans to become a dentist, had a boat he'd built with his own hands and a motor he'd saved and saved for.

Yodkins knocked at the Morin family's door. Young Joseph, who was known as Jackie, agreed to use of the boat, but insisted on joining the officer in the rescue effort, Morin's sister Kathleen Crowe recalled Friday afternoon.

"`I'm going with you,'" Crowe recalled her brother saying. "`I'll help.' And then the two of them put the boat in the water and neither of them ever came back."

The Morin family knew many families from River Glen because the family owned a grocery store nearby on Farmington Avenue. A Subway sandwich shop now occupies the building. The Morins lived in the apartment upstairs.

When the two rescuers tried to get Mildred Barrows Frey into the boat, she fell into the water. Her 16-year-old daughter, Mildred Ruth Frey, then tried to jump into the boat, causing it to capsize. The swift current carried everyone away. The bodies of Yodkins, Robert C. Frey and Mildred Ruth Frey were recovered later. Morin and Mildred Barrows Frey were never found.

The Carnegie Hero Fund honored Yodkins and Morin for their efforts, posthumously awarding each a medal. The narrow park where the ceremony took place, with Route 4 on one side and the Farmington River on the other, is named Yodkins-Morin Memorial Park in honor of the two men.

But the Farmington Police Department did not have an awards program at the time. So department officials decided to mark the flood's 50th anniversary by honoring Yodkins, the Farmington Police Department's only line-of-duty death, and Morin.

Chief James V. Rio described what the two men did that night. Simsbury Police Chief Peter Ingvertsen, a Unionville resident whose father was Farmington police chief at the time of the flood, recalled his father's sadness at the loss of Yodkins and assured both families that neither man had ever been forgotten.

Yodkins' widow, Alice Griffin, sat at the ceremony surrounded by family. Rio presented her with the department's medal of honor and a plaque.

Griffin recalled that while her husband worked to save people from the flood, she was at home tending to a family from [Pennsylvania](#) whose car was damaged in an accident as they were driving through [Farmington](#). The people had no place to go or stay, and her husband had brought them home.

She hadn't seen her husband in several days, but didn't think much of it until she saw a photograph of him in the newspaper after an earlier rescue.

"When I saw the picture in the paper I knew something was wrong," she said. "The look in his eyes. He didn't think he was going to make it."

After her husband's death, she married the funeral director who had handled her husband's arrangements.

Jackie Morin's sisters, Crowe and Sister Lorraine Morin, said the police department's decision to present the citizen's award to their brother meant a lot to them.

The flood destroyed the family business and took a brother. That his body was never recovered only added to the pain. Each Sunday, with the grocery store closed, Crowe and her parents would walk the river's banks.

"We would go out and trudge downriver looking for him," she recalled. "We did that for months - looking for him."

Half a century has helped ease the pain. As has the knowledge that Jackie Morin died trying to help others.

"It gives you some satisfaction, that what he died for was something worthwhile," Morin said.

Farmington: Far From Home

<http://xml.courant.com/news/specials/hc-55flood-far-lcarlson,0,4533853.story>

1955 Flood Photos on website Louis Carlson | Anchorage, Alaska



Grieving Mother
(BOB FICKS)

Viola Bechard is consoled by Ernest Koswig of the East Farmington Volunteer Fire Department after learning that her 7-year-old daughter had been swept to her death in the River Glen section of Farmington during the August 1955 flood disaster

I was in a theater in Osaka, Japan, when they showed a newsreel of the 1955 flood. I was surprised to see the bridge in Unionville and the Round Hill Service Station owned by my neighbor, Ernest Holcomb, inundated!

The newsreel was the first that I knew of the flood. At the time I was a photo officer with the 67th Recon Technical Squadron stationed at Itami Air Force Base outside of Osaka. I returned home shortly thereafter in early October 1955.

A good friend and town citizen, Charlie Yodkins lost his life trying to rescue others. A similar flood in 1938 took out the bridge in Unionville.

A State Of Shock

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/topic/hc-flood3.artaug16,0,1708430.story?page=2>

From the Hartford Courant

Of the 29 people killed in Waterbury, 27 were from North Riverside Street, where 17 homes were lost.

River Glen in Unionville had 38 homes scrubbed from the landscape, and five heavily damaged. Twelve of the town's 13 deaths came from this neighborhood.

One of the last deaths to be associated with the storm happened on Saturday, when a small boy from Canton, David Murray, was killed by the blade of a helicopter that had lost power while taking off and crashed back to the ground.

The death toll statewide was 87, but not all the victims were found. In the days after the flood, Farmington police Officer Bill Davis insisted on working with those removing debris in the hopes of recovering the remains of his three children, who had vanished in the waters that ravaged River Glen. They were never found.



Makeshift Transportation (COURANT FILE PHOTO) Residents of the Unionville section of Farmington are rescued with some makeshift transportation

Nor was the body of Joseph Morin, the [UConn](#) student who along with police Officer Charles Yodkins died trying to rescue the Frey family.

In Waterbury, they retrieved the bodies of all five members of the Bergin

family, whose house had been washed away.

They also found the body of 9-month-old Jimmy Krohner, who had been torn from his mother's embrace in New Hartford's Satan's Kingdom. He was discovered hanging by his diaper from a barbed-wire fence. There was not a scratch on him.

In the lower [Naugatuck](#) Valley, funeral directors had to sort out and rebury the estimated 50 bodies and skeletons whose coffins had been washed through the streets after the floodwaters undermined a cemetery.

Curfews were imposed in many towns, and martial law declared. As soon as the water level went down, the looters came out, and in Waterbury alone, 30 were arrested.

In the hardest-hit areas, there was no water, no electricity, no phone service and no place to buy food for several days.

Schools, churches and community halls were turned into emergency shelters.

Food was airlifted in, and huge tanker trucks visited neighborhoods where residents would fill bottles and pots with fresh water.

In some places, mothers built outdoor fires to heat water for baby formula.

In hospitals without power, patients had to be carried between floors, and dry ice was required to keep the blood supply from spoiling.

In one Waterbury neighborhood, food intended for victims ran short because sightseers were eating it.

People trying to move around had difficulty because so many bridges were out. The state, alone, counted 33 lost bridges. In Waterbury, only two bridges over the [Naugatuck River](#) were operational.

To reconnect the state, Army engineers brought in pre-constructed Bailey bridges, which had been intended for use in the invasion of Germany. A team of 40 men could put up a 120-foot, one-way span in six to 10 hours.

There were widespread health concerns, and 13 towns in the Naugatuck Valley region, along with Putnam, were declared health hazards.

All Waterbury residents were required to get typhoid shots, and the city's health director forbade funerals or wakes for flood victims, although graveside services were allowed.

The Torrington Fire Department washed the streets with disinfectant, and homeowners in flooded areas exhausted the supply of chlorinated lime, which

was used to disinfect basements.

[President Eisenhower](#) visited Connecticut on Aug. 22, and promised the federal government would do all it could, which wasn't much (about \$9 million).

Eisenhower also urged citizens to donate to victims' funds, and people throughout the country and beyond responded. The Red Cross spent \$11 million in Connecticut, assisting 7,506 families.

The total damage from the flooding was estimated at \$350 million to \$400 million.

Most homes were not covered by flood insurance, although homeowners' policies did cover the loss of contents.

Automobiles were covered, but the Connecticut Motor Club advised car owners to settle claims and forget about cars caught under water because silt in the engine could not be remedied.

According to a report prepared by the state, 507 industrial facilities, 1,436 commercial establishments and 922 farms were damaged to varying degrees.

In addition, 668 dwellings were destroyed, 2,460 had major damage and 5,213 had minor damage.

Thousands found themselves temporarily out of work and forced to apply for unemployment benefits, which amounted to \$35 per week plus \$3 for each dependent.

Representatives of Southern states came north seeking to persuade damaged industries to move south. They were called carpetbaggers, and treated as such.

In [Rocky Hill](#), [Wethersfield](#), [Newington](#), [Glastonbury](#), Windsor and [New Britain](#), the floodwater soaked, muddied, damaged and disrupted, but claimed no lives.

This was also the case in Bristol, where the Pequabuck River inundated the center of town and swallowed the low-lying Forestville section, but did not kill.

Even in Putnam, where the Quinebaug River cut the town in two, causing two huge factory fires and carrying barrels of exploding magnesium through the business district, there were no deaths.

Stories

There were stories to be told afterward, and everybody had one:

The fisherman who used his rod and reel to get a line to a marooned victim.

The state cop who reported seeing a house being swept along the river with smoke still coming out of its chimney.

The woman who used a broom to chase off a helicopter that was attempting to rescue her from atop a building.

The man who claimed to be pulling another out of the current when the victim's arm came off and he was swept away.

The prisoners from the Litchfield jail who found bottles of booze in a cellar they were cleaning and had quite a party before being discovered.

The contractor in Newington who was swept into a drainage pipe and carried 1,000 feet before emerging injured, but alive.

The horse named Smokey who was let loose when the flooding started and was found downstream a few days later sleeping on a factory rooftop.

The woman in Putnam who refused to get into a helicopter until then-Mayor John Dempsey wrote a note asking her to.

The armored car company that had to use fans and heat lamps to dry out more than \$1 million in cash that had been stuffed into Waterbury factory workers' pay envelopes.

And then there was the joke: Seems a rescue team came upon a husband and wife sitting on a rooftop surrounded by water, where they were watching a straw hat go downstream for about 40 feet, and then come back, and then go down, and then come back.

"What's going on?" one of the rescuers asked the wife.

"Oh, that's just our neighbor, Ed," she explained. "He said he was going to mow the lawn today come hell or high water."

Epilogue

In October of 1956, Al Leone and Ed Durant were awarded the Carnegie Medal for heroism. It was also given to Joseph Morin and Officer Charles Yodkins, posthumously. A narrow park along Route 4 in Unionville was also named after Morin and Yodkins.

A photo of Viola Bechard clutching her baby daughter after being pulled from

the Farmington River, where her other daughter, Patricia Ann, 7, drowned, became the poster for the flood victims' relief drive, and was seen all over the world.

[Rosalind Russell](#) never visited Waterbury again.

The Lost

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/topic/hc-55flood-casualties,0,2444497.story?page=2>

WATERBURY: Twenty-Nine Dead

Waterbury police began telling people to evacuate the apartment houses on North Riverside Street around 2:45 a.m. on Aug. 19, 1955 but the Naugatuck River rose so quickly it was soon impossible to walk away. Firefighters struggled, often in vain, to reach screaming, stranded families as debris began to shoot down the river and houses started to wash from their foundations.

Waterbury's first flood casualty came at 6:10 a.m. Firefighters had lashed a wooden ladder to the end of their truck ladder to reach the house at 625 North Riverside St. As a firefighter tried to pass 2-year-old **Donna Arroyo** across the ladder to another firefighter, the ladder twisted and all three fell into the raging Naugatuck River. The firefighters were swept close to shore, and were rescued. Donna's remains were never recovered.

When the house at 563 North Riverside St. washed away, the entire Bergin family died: **Marjorie Costa Bergin**, 27; her husband, **John J. Bergin**, 29; and their children, **Marjorie Bergin**, 5; **Joan Bergin**, 3; and **John J. Bergin 3rd**, 1.

Agatha Skrinskas Sardinkas 79, waved to neighbors and called out "Pray for me my friends; I am going to die" shortly before flood waters washed away the building where she lived at 593 North Riverside St. Also killed were her son, **Bronislaw C. Sardinkas**, 50, and the wife of another son, **Constance Shupenus Sardinkas**, also 50. Constance's son, Robert Sardinkas, survived. But Robert's friend, **Thomas Anthony Saviskas**, a 22-year-old Navy veteran, perished. Robert had phoned Thomas at his house on Wilson Street for help around 2 a.m., and Thomas rushed to the Sardinkas home. Thomas's father, a Waterbury firefighter arrived minutes later, but could only watch from the riverbank as the house was swept away

THE FLOOD



- Home
- Stories
- Memories
- Photos
- Videos
- Victims

SOURCES

This account was compiled from articles published in The Hartford Courant, The Hartford Times, The Naugatuck Daily News, The Waterbury Republican, The Waterbury American, The Torrington Register, the Farmington Valley Herald, The [Ansonia] Evening Sentinel, The Bridgeport Post, The Bridgeport Telegram and The [New London] Day. Information was also provided by the town clerk's offices in Farmington, Conn., Washington, Conn., and Winchester, Conn.; the city clerk's office in Milford, Conn; the Mattatuck Museum and former Associate Curator Raechel Guest; Diana Meyer and the Unionville Museum; the CPTV documentary "Flood of '55," produced by Rich Hanley; and Pam Katz, co-producer of the documentary "The Flood of 1955: Simsbury Remembers."

with his son inside.

Anna Klimas, 62, and her daughter, **Jean Klimas**, 33, lived on the second floor of a house at 535 North Riverside St. On the morning of Aug. 19, the first-floor tenants had escaped the rising water. Witnesses saw Anna and Jean Klimas come out on the porch, as if they intended to try to cross the flooded street, but they went inside again. They were last seen at a window as the house floated away.

Patrone Marcinkavicius Stanikas, 65, a Lithuanian immigrant, and her son **Stanley Marks**, 44, a factory worker, died when their apartment house at 567 North Riverside St. was destroyed. Another tenant, **Vincent Saulenas**, 69, a Lithuanian immigrant who had worked for the Waterbury Street Department and the American Brass Co., also perished.

Clarence F. Rameikas Sr., 36, and **Joseph Synott**, 50 of 621 North Riverside St., had reportedly evacuated their apartment house but returned to move their possessions to higher floors. Rising water forced them and three members of the Sherwill family to the roof. The house floated down the river and hit a railroad trestle, where two of the Sherwills were pulled to safety. The roof collapsed, throwing Rameikas, Synott and Bernard Sherwill into the river. Only Sherwill managed to get ashore.

Three residents of 561 North Riverside St. died in the flood: **Barbara Vitkus**, 68; **Vincent Vitkus**, 72; and **Mary Urban Shimkus**, 33. Mrs. Vitkus's body was found during the demolition of Ward's Flats, a tenement on Bank Street where nearly 100 people had been trapped by the flood but were rescued.

The other residents of the neighborhood who died that day were: **Stanley Garbukas**, 60, whose exact address on North Riverside Street is not known; **Peter Laukaitis**, 71, a retired factory worker, and his wife, **Teofila Laukaitis**, 62, of 569 North Riverside St.; **Margaret Padaigas**, 62, of 597 North Riverside St.; **Henry Russell**, 17, a student at Warren F. Kaynor Technical School who lived at 599 North Riverside St.; and **Winifred Grant Verrier**, 47, and her daughter, **Nancy Ellen Verrier**, 6, of 587 North Riverside St.

Only two of Waterbury's 29 flood deaths occurred away from North Riverside Street. One of them was **Frank Butkus**, 39, of 1030 Highland Ave., who was working at the American Brass Co. factory on Washington Street.

The other was **Edward Meier**, 72, of 250 Highland Ave., who was swept away by flood waters on Freight Street in downtown Waterbury. His son Raymond, who was with his father, was rescued. The elder Meier, a German immigrant, had been a machinist at the Waterbury Farrel Foundry and Machine Co.

FARMINGTON: Thirteen Dead

Patricia Ann Bechard, 7, of the River Glen neighborhood in the Unionville section of Farmington was swept away in the Farmington River when a rescue boat carrying her family capsized. Her mother's grief was captured in a Hartford Courant photograph that was later published in Life magazine and became one of the most powerful and enduring images of the flood.

When the boat carrying the Bechard family capsized, another passenger was reported to have drowned with Patricia. He was described as a male neighbor of the family, but was not named in contemporary accounts. Most likely it was **Homer Valliere**, a 45-year-old toolmaker from the River Glen neighborhood who was later confirmed to be among the drowned.

Charles Yodkins Sr., 43, a police officer and volunteer firefighter in Farmington, rescued several people in Unionville on Aug. 19. When he heard of a stranded family in River Glen, he knocked on the door of **Joseph "Jackie" Morin**, 22, a University of Connecticut student, looking for a boat. Morin offered his, and insisted on coming to help. They were trying to get the Frey family on board when the boat overturned in the Farmington River. Yodkins, Morin and the entire Frey family - **Robert Carl Frey**, 57; his wife, **Mildred Barrows Frey**, 55; and their daughter **Mildred Ruth Frey**, 16 - were drowned. A memorial dedicated to Yodkins and Morin is located at the former site of the River Glen neighborhood. (More about [Yodkins and Morin](#))

William Davis, a Farmington auxiliary police officer who lived on Sequassen Street in River Glen, was trying to evacuate his family around daybreak on Aug. 19 when water came up through the basement stairway. Davis and his wife, Freida, tried to push their three young sons onto the roof, but the house collapsed. **Glen Davis**, 7; **James Davis**, 5; and **Lawrence Davis**, 4; were carried away. The parents survived.

The Davis' second-floor tenants, **Eldridge S. Chadwick**, 53, and **Sarah Rickard Chadwick**, 52, a couple who were originally from Maine, also drowned in the flood. By one account, they were on the roof when the house collapsed.

The death certificate of **Louis John Parrott**, a 73-year-old retired railroad freight conductor who lived on New Britain Avenue, lists him among those who drowned in the flood.

NEW HARTFORD: Eight Dead

Edward Heacox and **Louis Hinman** died when a landslide on Route 44 pushed their State Highway Department truck into the Farmington River in New Hartford.

Linda Bouchard, 11, and **Carol Phyllis Bouchard**, 10, died along with

their mother **Belcia (Dionne) Bouchard**, 32, and their cousin, **Charmaine Marie Bouchard**, 18. They were in the Dew Drop Inn on High Street in New Hartford, owned by Belcia Bouchard's husband, when the building was washed into the Farmington River.

Nine-month-old **James Krohner** was torn from his mother's arms in the Satan's Kingdom section of New Hartford when the Farmington River swept their house off its foundation. His mother and two older brothers, aged 10 and 12, grabbed onto trees and were rescued the next morning.

Michael Mikoley, 63, was believed to have been in a relative's house on Cottage Street in New Hartford when it was swept down the Farmington River on Aug 19. His body was found downstream nearly three weeks later.

WINSTED: Seven Dead

The author John Hersey wrote a dramatic account of the drowning of **Josephine Cornelio**, 49, in an article printed in several newspapers. He reported that Miss Cornelio (whom he erroneously called Mary) and her brother were stranded by the raging Mad River in a tenement on Main Street in downtown Winsted. Rescuers managed, after several attempts, to reach them by boat and were returning when Josephine Cornelio panicked, stood up and capsized the boat. Her brother and other rescuers managed to struggle ashore, but Josephine fought off a rescue attempt and drowned.

William Samele, 57, a bartender at a local restaurant, lived in a three-story apartment building on Main Street. He was reportedly watching the attempted rescue of Josephine Cornelio from the front porch when his apartment house washed away.

The body of **Sinclair Meggison**, 52, was found in the wrecked Hotel Clifton, a four-story building that was torn from its foundations on Main Street and carried down the Mad River to the city's athletic field.

Concettina Zappula, 65, had refused to leave her home near the Still River on Aug. 19. Flood waters later washed her from the roof in the darkness, according to neighbors who heard her screams.

Mary Machrone, 44, of 1 Main St., Winsted, drowned when a rescue boat hit a bridge on the Still River and capsized.

Maney Leshay, 73, a newspaper dealer, was driving down Holabird Avenue on his way to work on the morning of Aug. 19 when a friend's frantic waves alerted him that the bridge over the Still River had washed out. He tried but could not stop the car. His body was later found downstream, still inside the car.

Hartford Courant reporter Joe O'Brien Sr. told the story of an unnamed

young man who stopped to offer help to a police sergeant on the night of Aug. 18 as the Mad River was rising over Main Street. He agreed to knock on doors and tell people on the river side of Main Street to leave their homes. His body was found a few days later. The young man was almost certainly **John Gould**, 28, who lived on Highland Lake and was listed among the casualties.

TORRINGTON: Six Dead

Erminia Zordan, 48, was being lowered to a rescue boat from the second-story porch of her flooded home on Lipton Place in downtown Torrington when the porch collapsed. She fell into the rescue boat, capsized it and drowned.

Just a few blocks away, **Carmelia Rose Bauchiero**, 24, a recent immigrant from Italy, was swept into the flood waters of the Naugatuck River from her house on Oak Street. Her body was later found under a pile of debris on an island in the Naugatuck River. Her husband was rescued from the roof after being stranded for 12 hours. The body of her 6-year-old stepdaughter, **Mary Bauchiero**, was never found.

The searchers who found Mrs. Bauchiero's body found another just 20 feet away. It was **Victor Cuatto**, 64, a former tavern-keeper and factory worker who had lived on Scovill Street.

In western Torrington, **Lena Lemire**, 48, a machine operator for the Union Hardware Co., drowned when her family's trailer home on Norfolk Road was carried away by the Naugatuck River.

Early in the morning of Aug. 19 water began to seep inside a cabin on Norfolk Road occupied by **Gustav R. Jacquemin**, 74, a retired farmer and lumberman who had an amputated leg, and his son. Jacquemin's son struggled to get his father to a safe spot higher in the cabin. The son managed to reach the roof, but was washed into the Naugatuck River by a wall of water. He grabbed hold of a tree and was later rescued by boat. His father's body was found a day later in the cabin, which had drifted downstream.

NAUGATUCK: Four Dead

George I. Fellows, 58, was at home at 501 North Main St. in Naugatuck on the morning of Aug. 19 when the house was knocked from its foundation by the Naugatuck River. He sent his father, sister, niece and nephew across a ladder extended from the second-story porch to a house next door, then threw several suitcases and valuables to them. But when he started across the ladder, the porch collapsed and he fell into the river. The neighbor's house floated off its foundation with the relatives inside, then slammed into another house. The surviving members of Fellows' family crawled through

windows into the next house, climbed to the roof and were, eventually, rescued by helicopter with several neighbors.

Witnesses said **Theodore J. Montambault**, a 55-year-old inventor and engineer, and his wife, **Eva Fae LaPointe Montambault**, were swept from the roof of their home at 532 North Main St. as a helicopter approached to rescue them.

In the same neighborhood, **Anna Karbin** was nearly saved. A rescuer was carrying her on his back from her home, guided through the torrent by a rope tied to a pole. The pole gave way and struck Mrs. Karbin, who was carried away by the flood. She was never seen again.

ANSONIA: Two Dead

Benedict Karabeinikoff, 69, a retired brass factory worker, collapsed and died of a heart attack while being rescued from his house at 57 Broad St. in Ansonia as the waters of the Naugatuck River rose on Aug. 19.

Raymond Gittings, 55, was at work at the S. O. & C. Co. factory in Ansonia, where he was foreman of the shipping department. As the river flooded the area round the factory, he had a heart attack. He was taken by boat to an ambulance, but died before it reached the hospital.

CANTON: Two Dead

Herman Hackbarth, 65, of the Collinsville section of Canton, died while being rescued from his home on River Road. He had reportedly been in ill health.

Two-year-old **David Murray** was killed by the rotor blade of a helicopter that crashed while taking off. The helicopter pilot had just rescued 13 people and was searching for a family reportedly marooned on a rooftop. He landed to ask directions, but the engine failed on takeoff.

COLEBROOK: Two Dead

Robert Doig, 67, and his wife, **Christine Doig**, 57, refused to leave their home on Riverton Road in the Robertsville section of Colebrook on the morning of Aug. 19 as the Farmington River rose and authorities urged people to evacuate. Rescuers returned for them later, and watched helplessly as the house was swept away.

EAST GRANBY: Two Dead

Shirley M. Phelps, 24, was stranded on the roof of her family home in the Granbrook Park neighborhood of East Granby with her parents and two siblings. As a rescue boat approached, the house began to collapse into the

flood waters of Salmon Brook. The people on the roof tried to jump into the boat. Shirley drowned but the others managed to cling to trees and were later rescued.

The Phelps home was one of about 100 in the Granbrook Park neighborhood. All of them were inundated by Salmon Brook, which reportedly rose from its normal depth of about 3 feet to crest at 38 feet. Almost all the homes were washed away. Hundreds of people were stranded, but the only other fatality was 89-year-old **Mathea E. Holland**, who drowned in her cottage.

SEYMOUR: Two Dead

Anila Krupa Fliss, 69, and her neighbor, **Josephine Cripps**, 69, were trapped for hours by the rising Naugatuck River after they refused to leave Mrs. Fliss' home on Third Street in Seymour. One account said they were swept from the second-floor porch; another said they were last seen still inside the smashed house as it went over a dam in the Naugatuck River. Their bodies were found, separately, in the Housatonic River in Milford.

SIMSBURY: Two Dead

Patrick Mullin, 70, and **Margaret McLaughlin Mullin**, 70, had been safely evacuated to the Westminster School but decided to walk back to their home on Wolcott Road before dawn, while the water was still rising. The flood eventually reached the attic, and the Mullens were found dead in the house after the water began to recede.

WASHINGTON: Two Dead

William Henry Foulis, 78, a plumbing and heating contractor who had been the town's treasurer, and his wife **Maud Bacon Foulis**, 67, died when their house in Washington Depot washed down the Shepaug River and slammed into a bridge. They had refused their son's entreaties to evacuate.

CANAAN: One Dead

The town's police chief, **William A. Kane**, 59, had taken his wife in a rowboat from their home near Church Street and was returning there when he had a heart attack and died.

EAST HARTFORD: One Dead

Frank "Lucky" Luckingham, 81, lived on a houseboat that he kept moored on the East Hartford side of the Connecticut River. The boat drifted away during the flood, and he enlisted a friend with a boat to help find it. That boat overturned in the current. The friend survived but Luckingham's body was found floating in debris just 50 feet from the houseboat. The cause of death was given as heart failure.

HARTFORD: One Dead

George Weigold, 69, of Hartford, was electrocuted in a flooded cellar.

LITCHFIELD: One Dead

Katherine Ruot, 57, a nurse at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington, was returning from vacation in Nova Scotia on the morning of Aug. 19 with her mother, brother and sister-in-law when their car was stranded by the flood along the Naugatuck River in Litchfield. Mrs. Ruot was washed out of the car and her body was found later in the Campville section of East Litchfield, on the riverbank. Police officers rescued the others from the roof of a building nearby.

STONINGTON: One Dead

William J. Dolan, 58, a lineman for the Mystic Power Co., was electrocuted while working to repair a broken power line on the afternoon of Aug. 19.

THOMASTON: One Dead

Two firefighters rescued **Yvette Vouchard**, 35, and her dog from the Weeksville development in Thomaston but their boat overturned in the Naugatuck River and she was carried away. The firefighters managed to hang onto a partly submerged tree in the river, and were later rescued.
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