

WIND, RAIN BRING DEATH, RUIN

Storm Takes Heavy Toll at Mt. Baldy

By JIM HOLLON

MT. BALDY — A stream in Bear Canyon at Baldy Village, swollen under a deluge of more than 13 inches of rain in less than 24 hours, jumped its banks Wednesday night and rumbled down the village road, ripping up pavement and caving in homes.

As the water raged down the canyon, it swept away tons of earth from beneath the Mt. Baldy Community Church. Further down, a room in the Post Office collapsed and an unoccupied guest house at the rear of Al Wiseley's home was crushed under the pressure of water and boulders.

Swept Down Village Road

Above the Post Office, the stream buckled pavement on both the roadway and parking lot in front of Mt. Baldy Fire District headquarters. From the road, the rocks and water tumbled eastward toward San Antonio Creek, flooding several homes and ripping up other roads.

At the intersection of Mt. Baldy and the Glendora Mountain roads, the stream normally meanders peacefully through a culvert beneath the roadway. Now, with the culvert clogged with rocks and debris, the stream is rushing across the road again, crushing pavement and washing away its ballast.

U.S. Forest Ranger Des Rady, stationed at the village, said the rain began slowly at about 11 p.m. Tuesday and picked up at about 8 a.m. Wednesday. By 8 p.m., rainfall measured 13.14 inches for the 24-hour period beginning at 8 p.m. Tuesday. He said during Wednesday that rain was falling at a rate of about an inch per hour.

Visitors Urged to Leave

Rady said visitors were urged to leave while the roads still were clear. Homeowners along San Antonio Creek and the Bear Canyon stream evacuated their dwellings before the flood peaked at about 5:30 p.m.

Rady said at one time the water was 10 feet higher than during the recent flood which also wrecked roads.

During Wednesday's rain, the main road was washed out again north of the village at "Chapman's Corner" and near the Ice House Resort. By 8 a.m. today, county road crews had closed the main road, permitting only authorized travel north of San Antonio Dam.



Stream Becomes Vicious Torrent

The normally quiet stream meandering out of Bear Canyon roared out of its banks Wednesday evening causing a corner in village post office (above) to collapse. Below, the Mt. Baldy Community Church

appears to be teetering after the raging stream raked away tons of earth from beneath its foundation. Despite the incalculable damage of the sudden storm there was no loss of life or injuries at Baldy.

