

# 1927 FLOOD (CLARENDON)

By MOLLIE PIERCE KING

On Sunday, November 6, 1927, the Rutland Daily Herald published an extra edition devoted to but one topic, the great flood. Big headlines told of fifty known dead in Vermont with the possibility that more would be counted later. Clarendon along with Rutland and surrounding towns was without lights, power, telephone service, train service, passable roads and had a short supply of clean water and food.

On that day only two roads out of the Rutland area were passable, the one toward Burlington, if one went by way of '76 bridge on the Grove Street road and westward over a temporary bridge over Otter Creek. Directly quoting from the Herald, "It is impossible to travel on the highway south of Rutland because of the Cold River Bridge at North Clarendon. There is a gully ten feet deep and thirty feet wide at the south end of the bridge where the river rushed through and three streams of water are running across through the main street in the hamlet. The Creek Road south is utterly impassable. The Cold River road to Northam is badly washed and gullied. Travel from Wallingford north to Rutland is possible by taking East Street road to East Clarendon and then the east road north."

In another section railroads are discussed. To quote, "Railroads are ripped and torn everywhere, the Rutland railroad tracks are in bad shape throughout the length of their run in Rutland County. The worst damage was at Wallingford, Clarendon and Proctor."

In spite of the damage to roads, railroads, cellars flooded with water, and some polluted water systems, Clarendon had the good fortune to have no loss of life and little livestock loss during those trying days of November 1927.