



FLOOD AFTERMATH—Nenana, a small town 50 miles south of Fairbanks, suffered heavily during the great flood in Alaska's interior. Picture shows a portion of the town two weeks after the flood crest, a telltale evidence of the height of the water table.

In the center of the picture, note lighter shades on houses the water reached at flood crest. A submerged car can be seen at the right foreground.

—AMERICAN RED CROSS Photo
by MAC SLEE

Continuing Rain Worries Nenana Flood Victims

NENANA, ALASKA, Aug. 31.—Slow, cold rain came to flood-beaten Nenana today, bringing an unwanted slowdown in this small Tanana Valley community's race to get back on their feet before winter freeze arrives.

The rain was a big subject of conversation at the busy Red Cross headquarters in the Assembly of God Church on Nenana's home town, where everyone agreed that even a little rain was a tragedy for people who are using every waking hour to dry out and clean up their homes.

Several blocks away from the Red Cross office, in a neat cleaned up white frame house in the midst of a small complex of log cabins, workshops and tool sheds, Mrs. Rita Lord looked at the muddy tracks made by her grandchildren on a floor which had already been scrubbed clean four times and hoped for the rain's end.

Heat was pouring through the cleaned-up house from a heater outside, and the entire house was neat as a pin, with even potted plants neatly in place on shelves and

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windowsills, but the wet sand tracked into the house and the moisture coming up from the floor were still troublesome.

"I hope we get some real sun before winter gets here," the whitehaired native matriarch said, looking out the window at the sea of drying clothes, toys, tools, furniture and flood-tossed debris which surrounds her home and the workshops of her son, Edmund Lord.

What the Tanana River left of their front yard ends abruptly at a large road cave-in extending from the Lord property under the Alaska Railroad trestle to a point just a few yards from a ruined house resting crazily on the river's edge.

Although, the Friday rains slowed down the drying out process and added to the woes of the five hundred man community, organized and individual recovery efforts continued actively. Red Cross supplies were still being distributed from the headquarters, while Army trucks from Fairbanks brought in two loads of cots, mattresses, sleeping bags, stoves and food provided by the Red Cross for use in a tent village erected by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for returning natives who arrived during the day by bus from Fairbanks.

Other native families are still living in tents of their own in the hillside across the river and come to the Red

Cross for supplies while still other Nenana residents are in the shelter provided by the Air Force and RCA personnel at Clear, or in Fairbanks.

Many families are preparing to move back into their homes although young children are still barred from the community because of potential health hazards; it is estimated that the hard work of Nenana residents and assistance of the Red Cross may make as many as three-quarters of the community's habitable before freezing weather arrives.

At the Red Cross office, where residents gather for a mid-day hot meal served from a Canteen truck flown up from Seattle 150 meals were served in the rain on Friday—the work of individual family assistance has begun.

Both Red Cross and BIA caseworkers are on hand as the two agencies work side by side to help Nenana get back on its feet.

Already approximately 65 Nenana families have applied to the Red Cross for assistance over and beyond the emergency aid they have received.

Already six thousand dollars in such assistance, largely for items needed immediately so a family could get back into its home or temporary quarters, has been distributed along with \$10,000 worth of food, clothing and clean-up supplies.

Red Cross staff members John Rogers, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Gorver Adams, Atlanta, Georgia, and Don Redenbo, Dayton, Ohio, are working with the families as they develop their plans for flood recovery.

Assisting them are building advisors John Kraft of Riverside, California, and Howard Hapgood, of Albany, New York, who are determining the extent of damage and cost of repairing property belonging to home-owners seeking Red Cross help, and Clyde Kelley, of Seattle, Wash. who operates the Red Cross Canteen truck.