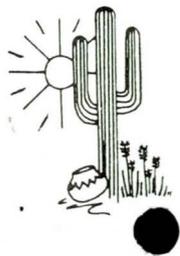


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Gazette Staff Photo by Richard Wisdom

Jack Hanna gives Mrs. Alfred Mentemeyer a lift through ankle-deep (and rising) waters in South Tempe, after car became stalled. Mrs. Mentemeyer's daughter, Barbara, leads the path, and son, Richard (rear), carries valuables

from auto. Tempe marked up an Arizona record last night when a storm poured more than 3 inches of rain on the city in less than an hour. University of Arizona experiment station near Tempe had 3.42 inches in hour.

Phx Gazette 9/15/69

3-City Valley Area Drenched By Up To 3.5 Inches Of Rain

The Tempe-Mesa-Chandler area began to mop up and wring out today after thunderstorms poured 2 to 3½ inches of rain in a brief span and caused severe flash flooding.

More than 3 inches drenched Tempe last night in less than an hour — a record for Arizona. The University of Arizona citrus experimental station near Tempe recorded 3.42 inches between 6 and 7 p.m., causing flooding and traffic jams. The downpour

was about half of Tempe's annual rainfall amount.

Strong, gusty winds and some hail accompanied the storms.

AS FAR SOUTH as Chandler, some homes and streets were flooded. Arizona 87 was closed temporarily by high water. Wind and rain damage to trailer homes near Chandler and Tempe was reported, but no injuries apparently resulted.

Elsewhere in the state,

measurements were less than one-tenth of an inch, except for .28 of an inch at Flagstaff Airport. Phoenix registered only .04 of an inch.

Other measurements around the Valley, all unofficial, were:

West Scottsdale, .06 of an inch, Daley Park in Tempe, 3.36 inches; and East Scottsdale, .37 of an inch.

SEVERE STORM damage was reported at Arizona State University's Goodwin Stadium

in Tempe, where about 3 feet of water spilled through the equipment room.

Mill Avenue and Broadway in Tempe remained blocked off to traffic this morning. The streets were closed during the flooding last night and water remained too deep for traffic today.

Traffic was channeled off Mill and Broadway to University Drive and a tremendous morning traffic jam resulted. Traffic lights were turned off and policemen directed traffic.