THE GOLDEN
EST. 1891 STAR

Second Class Mail Registration Number 0152 | Wednesday, September 8, 1982 | Number 35 | Volume 92 | 25¢

Slide heavily damages property

Washout Creek lived up to its name on Saturday morning, causing extensive property and highway damage. The creek is in the McMurdo area midway between Golden and Parson. The area had heavy rain throughout the night which increased in intensity at about 7:00 a.m. with the main part of the flood occurring between 8 and 9 o'clock.

As a result both Highway 95 and Campbell Road have been closed. The steel bridge on Campbell Road was completely taken out and the highway was covered with as much as 21 feet of mud and rock for about 300 feet. Power was also off in the Campbell Road area most of Saturday.

The home and property of Mr. & Mrs. Russell Schultz have been severely damaged. The Schultz family was just getting up when the mud and water started breaking windows and pouring in. Within minutes furniture was being pushed to one side of the house and their access to their stairway for second storey safety was cut off. After some difficulty, Mr. Schultz was able to break a window and get outside, from where he climbed up a balcony to the second storey. He then pulled 8 year old Aaron and his wife to safety.

After having reached relative safety the Schultz family still did not learn what might be coming down the creek and how they might get to the road. Fortunately, Alfred Hillary was on the road and was about to bring Mr. Schultz's D6 cat to the balcony of the house to provide an escape for the family.

Another attempt to rescue the family had been made by Dr. Steve Edworthy of Calgary (Steve is a sone-in-law of Dr. & Mrs. Al Trott of Golden) who tried to find a ground escape for the family amid the rock and mud, but to no avail. His efforts were very much welcomed by the Schultz's, who were simply glad to know that someone was trying to get them out.

The Schultz garage and several outbuildings were completely destroyed. Their two cars were both carried to the creek, under the bridge and left on the creek-bed downstream below the highway when the high water subsided. There was fortunately very little damage to the sawmill and planer complex on the west side of the highway.

Department of Highways foreman, Chuck Henderson, was on the scene very quickly after the mudslide closed the highway and work started on Sunday to begin hauling away the mud. One of Henderson's problems on the scene was erroneous information passed along which appeared to make the disaster even worse than it was.

Traffic began to move past the slide area on a temporary detour road at about 2 p.m. Monday afternoon. As we go to press it is not known when Campbell Road will be re-opened.

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Saturday afternoon a cat belonging to Russell Schultz was busy trying to divert mud and water from the Schultz property back to Washout Creek bed.

Man killed in logging accident

Twenty-two year old Steven MacDonald died last Thursday as a result of injuries sustained in a logging accident. Mr. MacDonald lost control of the skidder he was operating and it rolled into a ditch. According to the R.C.M.P. report, the accident occurred approximately 25 km north-east of Golden.

Funeral services for Mr. MacDonald were held Tuesday, September 7, at the Pentecostal Tabernacle in Golden. A complete obituary will be published next week.

Pictured above is one of two cars lost by the Schultz's when they were swept downstream by the mud slide.

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