

Isolation and destruction were so heavy that the area was inaccessible for weeks and was opened to the public only after the hazards of washouts and contamination had been minimized. My wife and I entered the area for these pictures September 12th, 23 days after the disaster which occurred August 19th. From the morning of August 20th to the 25th, first efforts were the rescue of those alive and stranded in the area. Helicopters picked the lucky ones from the housetops, trees, floating debris and island peaks. During the period from August 23rd until the area was opened, efforts were directed towards recovery of the dead and missing, sustenance to the living, decontamination by health crews and rehabilitation by volunteers and construction workers. That last phase is a continuing process and as late as February 1970, despite the tremendous amount of work done, there is yet much to do.

This record is only a small part of Lowesville, Piney River, Massie's Mill, Tyro, Hat Creek, Woodsmill, Lovington and the tragic demise of Davis Creek and Roseland and what happened there in those communities of Nelson County.

- 3 ▲ Out trip started on US60 toward Huff Creek, where at the first bridge west of Amherst we see the cutting effect of the surging waters as they rushed from the highlands of the north.
- 6 ▲ We turned northward to Nelson County at the junction of route US60 and 778. Here we can see where highway crews removed a mud slide which came from the mountain on the right toward the streambed on the left.
- 7 ▲ Approaching Lowesville, we encountered a bridge washout at Indian Creek about a mile north of the Temperance School district. This small placid stream had expanded to 20 times its normal width.