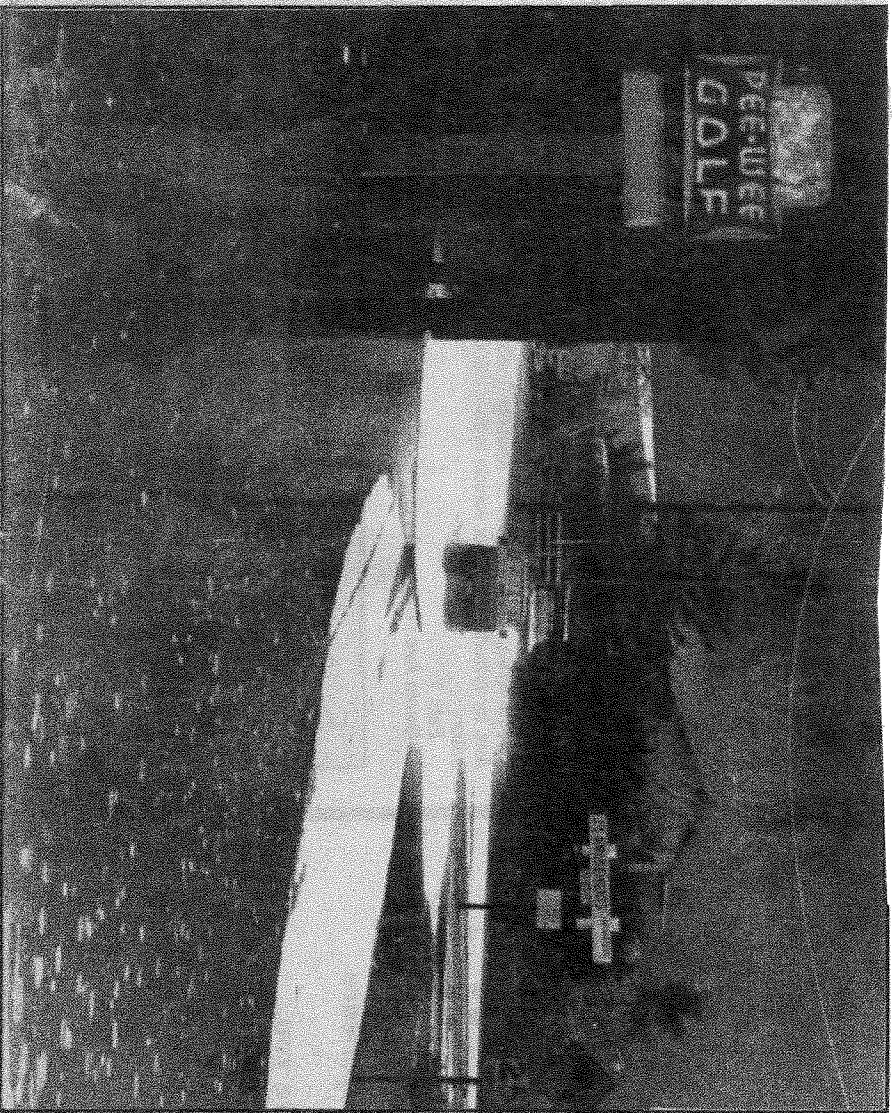


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FRANK ROBERTSON

DRENCHED—It didn't rise as high as early predictions, but the rain-swollen Russian River still swelled over its banks early Monday morning, cresting at 33.5 feet, and flooded streets in communities along the Russian River. Above, river water flows across Neeley Road in Guerneville.

## Three persons rescued from Laguna

*Sonoma West Times + News*

*2/7/96*

GUERNEVILLE — A steady rain that pelted the West County with nearly five inches of rain in 24 hours pushed the Russian River past flood stage early Monday. The low-lying areas of the town experienced some flooding, but nothing compared to the devastating floods of 1995.

Guerneville, Graton and Sebastopol all measured about 4.5 inches of rain between Saturday night and Sunday morning, sending the Russian River rising at more than a foot per hour starting at midnight Saturday night.

The river surpassed the flood stage of 32 feet late Sunday night, and crested at 33.5 feet early Monday, according to the California Department of Water Resources. No injuries were reported, but officials from

the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department performed a rescue in the Laguna de Santa Rosa Sunday afternoon. Deputies responded to a call for help at 6 p.m. at the Village Mobile Home Park, just east of Sebastopol on Highway 12.

Deputies found three people hanging on to trees in the water. The Sebastopol Fire Department arrived to assist in the rescue.

Lynn Deedler, 52, his 12-year-old son and a 14-year-old friend, were safely pulled from the water. The Sebastopol residents told police they had entered the water in a rowboat on Todd Road and floated toward Sebastopol. The boat got caught in some tree branches and overturned. All three were wearing life jackets.