

Nov 24

Deluge Destroys Chevy Chase Canyon Homes: Heavy Flooding Threatens Other Structures

By MIKE POTTAGE
Staff Writer

Two homes in Chevy Chase Canyon have been completely destroyed by the current deluge.

A home on Golf Club Dr. near Sheridan Rd. toppled into a ravine and flood waters are causing a continuous cave-in condition endangering two adjacent structures.

The residence, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Butler,

1660 Golf Club Dr., began crumbling and breaking up Monday. "It went so fast we didn't even have time to get the furniture out," Mrs. Butler said.

James Guercio of 754 Solway St. was the second victim of this recent storm. Tons of rock and mud from a raw cutback behind the home tumbled down, crashing through the sliding glass doors into the living room, taking out an entire wall.

The structure is owned by the State and is within the Foothill Freeway right of way. However, the Guercio family has nowhere to go and Guercio said he was unemployed and looking for work.

The Butlers blame the City of Glendale for most of the damage to their home. "We began asking the City to do something to repair the two storm drains last spring," Mrs. Butler said. "They sent survey crews up here, looked

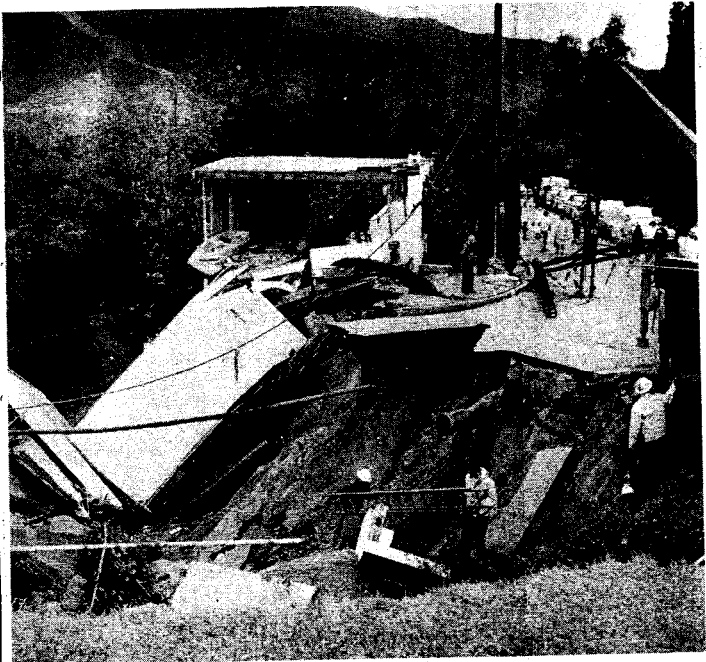
the situation over, and said something had to be done. But the City did nothing."

Mrs. Butler said she had nothing but contempt for Public Works Director William L. O. Martini. She said he tried to blame the cave-in on some water running from the roof when the two 50-year-old metal storm drains had completely collapsed and tons of dirt, the entire street, two telephone poles, water and gas mains, walls, portions of a

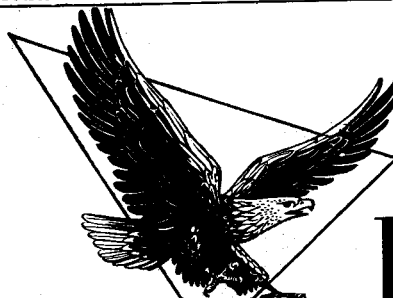
driveways, and a patio and adjacent yard went plunging down.

"One of the two drains plugged up. The City came up and the man said he was going to open it. I told him he was crazy if he did and that our home would go. Well, he opened it up and it wasn't 45 minutes before the patio, garage, kitchen, and dining room went down into the canyon,"

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TOTAL LOSS -- Two 50-year old storm drains collapsed Monday and flood waters caused the total destruction of the above home, the street, and backyard of another home on Golf Club Drive in Chevy Chase Canyon. Mrs. Richard Butler, owner, said events "happened so fast we didn't even have time to move our furniture out. Her furnishings are visible in what was once a living room. Telephone workman, below, are pulling one of two poles out of the garage created by the flood. As rains continue, two adjacent structures are being threatened. -- Independent Photo by Mike Pottage.



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Council Ponders More Restrictions On Emerald Isle Drive Tract