

Hoax Spreads Terror Here; Some Pack Up

Roads Jammed—Fear Sends Several Persons To Hospitals

Three trunk lines into Trenton police headquarters were jammed last night after the "horror" broadcast as panic-stricken citizens telephoned to learn the real extent of the damages and the best methods of defense. Scores of doctors, nurses and National Guardsmen, unaware that it was all a hoax, called to offer immediate emergency services.

State Police headquarters likewise was flooded with so many calls that a squad of troopers was equipped with gas masks and riot guns and sent speeding to the scene of the "invasion." When they reached Grovers Mill, however, they found nothing more than a dilapidated mill overrun with hundreds of would-be rescuers and thrill-seekers.

The troopers reported the roads in the vicinity of Grovers Mill and Dutch Neck were virtually impassable. So many people were either trying to reach the scene of the "invasion" or to get away from it as fast as possible that traffic was almost at a standstill for miles around.

Among the first to reach the mill site were Arthur F. Buddington, chairman of the Princeton University geology department, and Professor Harry H. Hess, geological expert on mineralogy. Armed with a geologist's hammer and a flashlight they began a systematic tapping of rocks to de-

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Terror Spread Here by 'Hoax'

Police Rushed to Scene Many Packed Up Belongings

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terrible if they were of earthly or heavenly origin.

In Kingston one church closed a bit early to give the congregation time to prepare for Judgment Day. Services in a Princeton church were disrupted when a frantic man rushed in shouting "The world is coming to an end."

Lieutenant George Gilbert, at Trenton police headquarters, reported one drunk rushed into the station house at the height of the excitement and demanded he be sent to the Workhouse for safe-keeping. He declared he would feel safe there from any Martial invasion.

Radio Dispatchers Frank Kramer and Francis Parr said they were swamped with telephone calls requesting information on antidotes for poison gas and the treatment of persons overcome by the deadly fumes. One Hamilton Township woman vowed she had stuffed all the doors and windows with paper and wet rags but that the fumes were already seeping into her living room.

Two North Clinton Avenue families told the dispatchers they had packed a few personal belongings, bundled their children into automobiles and were preparing to leave for the West Coast. They wanted to know how long it would take to reach the Rocky Mountains.

Patrolman James Creedon said a terrified motorist riding in a Hudson County car had stopped him and asked the direction to the Lincoln Highway. Bridge police reported several motorists leaving the State had stopped and inquired if the invaders had reached Trenton as yet.

The panic reached its peak in the metropolitan New York section. Unaware of the fiction of what they had heard, thousands rushed into the streets and parks, spreading their infectious alarm as they milled around waiting for the destruction to overtake them. In the residential Clinton Hills section of Newark, police found more than 20 families with their belongings huddled in the streets, their faces covered with water-

tion. Unaware of the fiction of what they had heard, thousands rushed into the streets and parks, spreading their infectious alarm as they milled around waiting for the destruction to overtake them. In the residential Clinton Hills section of Newark, police found more than 20 families with their belongings huddled in the streets, their faces covered with water-soaked handkerchiefs. Fifteen of the group were treated at St. Michael's Hospital for shock.

In distant parts of the country, to which the fantasy was carried by a nation-wide hookup, the panic was slightly less than in New York. Telephone systems as far away as the Pacific Coast were tied up with persons trying to ascertain the fate of relatives and friends. Three Princeton University students were ordered home immediately.

A Princeton senior, drowning his sorrows over Harvard's football victory, telephoned the "Daily Princetonian" office from a New York bar. He wanted to know if any of Coach Tad Wieman's players had been stricken by the "poison gas" before placing a bet on the Rutgers-Princeton game this Saturday.

Trenton and Princeton fire departments reported receiving numerous calls from New York and Newark, asking how bad the flames were and if any additional fire fighting equipment was needed.

One man was treated at Mercer Hospital for a heart attack which attendants said might possibly have been induced by the ultra-realistic broadcast.

There were many persons, of course, who actually "saw" the "little men from Mars" and described minutely the details of the "invasion." The Trenton police radio room received a call from a hysterical girl near the site of the landing of the meteor. "You can't imagine the horror of it!" she screamed. "It's hell!"

One Bronx man called police headquarters, announcing:

"They're bombing New Jersey?"
"How do you know?" inquired the patrolman.

"I heard it on the radio," stammered the man. "Then I went up on the roof and I could see the smoke from the bombs drifting. What shall I do?"

The patrolman calmed the man, as he did hundreds of other callers, by explaining it was purely a dramatization.

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A church supper in Wood-Ridge was disrupted when a terrified man, dragging his children, rushed in to get his wife to flee with them. A motorist who heard the broadcast on his auto radio emptied a motion picture theatre in Orange by rushing in and crying, "The State is being invaded. This place is going to be blown up."

An unexplained flickering of electric lights in parts of the State—although hours before the broadcast—helped to increase the panic when it came.

A West Orange restaurant, where the radio was turned on, lost a lot of money when all the customers fled without paying their checks.

