

UNTERMYER PARTY WRECKED BY STORM

Outdoor Program at Greystone
Spoiled, but 1,800 Delegates
See Show Later.

CITY'S TRANSIT DERANGED

Subways Are Flooded and Two
Lives Lost in 72-Mile Gale
and 20-Minute Deluge.

The twenty-minute thunderstorm and seventy-two-mile gale which struck New York late yesterday afternoon cost two lives, deranged the whole transit system and inflicted great property damage. The intensity of the storm, which was accompanied by frequent and vivid lightning, was indicated in the Weather Bureau report, which shows that more than an inch of rain fell in twenty minutes.

One of the most serious inconveniences caused by the sudden thunderstorm was the wrecking of Samuel Untermyer's garden party to 1,800 Democratic delegates, families and friends at his Yonkers home, Greystone-on-the-Hudson, formerly owned by Samuel J. Tilden.

Three Buses Marooned.

The visitors left New York in fifty-three buses, but three of them were marooned en route. The wind blew in the sides of a tent on the lawn where Louis Sherry, caterer, was preparing supper for 2,000. Tables were overturned, dishes broken and the 800 guests who had arrived were ordered from the tent by the police.

Mr. Untermyer directed that the food be packed in hampers and carried into the vacant Alexander Smith Cochrane house on his estate. The waiters endeavored to carry out his orders, but more buses, with fresh loads of guests, were arriving every minute and they were overwhelmed by the influx.

Matters were in a state of hopeless disorder. Hungry men and women, clamoring for food, filled the lower rooms of the Cochrane House, so that the bewildered waiters—with sandwiches, chicken salad and ices mixed indiscriminately in hampers—were unable even to reach them and start unpacking. Finally the press became so great that police were posted at the doors to push back the struggling visitors. To complicate the situation, a score of the city bus chauffeurs crowded about Mr. Untermyer demanding that they be tipped for making the drive up from town with his guests.

Party Starts Late.

"Can't you see what the situation is? Be reasonable!" Mr. Untermyer said. But the excited chauffeurs only pressed him the more closely and refused to leave him until he told them to go over to Greystone—through the Italian Gardens—where he said they would "be taken care of."

The Untermyer party was scheduled to leave Madison Square Garden at the close of the convention's afternoon session, which it was at first thought would not be later than 3:30 o'clock. The buses, which were furnished by the Department of Plant and Structures, parked on the Twenty-sixth Street side of the Garden at 2:30 o'clock and waited. It was nearly 5 o'clock before the delegates and their women folk were free and the start was made.

Captain A. L. Howe and twenty motorcycle policemen acted as an escort. Downtown traffic on Fifth Avenue was stopped while the procession whirled up town to 110th Street. Here the buses separated, some going west to Broadway and others continuing up the Grand Concourse. Five minutes later the downpour began. Windows were closed to prevent the rain from beat-

Continued on Page Twenty.

The New York Times

Published: June 26, 1924

Copyright © The New York Times

RAINSTORM RUINS PARTY TO DELEGATES

Continued from Page 1, Column 4.

ing in and the interior of the buses soon became Turkish baths.

At Broadway and 125th Street a torrent nearly three feet deep was pouring down the hill from 137th Street. At places on the Harlem River Speedway the flood was equally as bad. The motorcycle policemen were drenched to the skin, and most of them put their feet on their handle bars and sought to plow through the water. Ten of the machines were short circuited, however, and their riders were forced to drop out, but repairs were made and in an hour and a half the entire detachment reported at Greystone.

At 143d Street and Broadway a large tree was uprooted and fell across the roadway but the buses avoided it and continued. At 230th Street and Broadway one of the most heavily loaded vehicles went out of commission. Another one was put out of business by the storm on Mosholu Parkway and a third on North Broadway, Yonkers. In each instance the passengers were packed into other buses, already full. They were thoroughly soaked during the transfer.

On the way across Van Cortlandt Park from Mosholu Parkway there was a deafening crash of thunder and lightning struck an oak tree three feet in diameter a few yards from one of the buses. Some of the women became slightly hysterical and, for a moment, the entire bus load was dazed. The lightning stripped branches from the tree and tore the bark from its trunk as neatly as though it had been peeled with axes. No one was injured.

The force from the New York catering establishment arrived early, and seven tables were spread under a large canvas tent on the lawn in the rear of Duncraggan, the old Cochrane house. Eight hundred of the early arrivals were in and around the tent when the storm broke there. Accompanying the deluge of rain was a gale of wind which blew in the tent walls and raised havoc with the supper of chicken salad, ices and hot coffee. Dishes were hurled to the lawn by wind as tables were overturned, and Sergeant E. Shaffer and a force of Yonkers policemen began to clear the space about the tent to prevent injury to the guests.

More buses came chugging up the driveway in the storm, discharging scores of guests. It was then that orders were given to serve what remained of the supper in Duncraggan.

"The storm has ruined everything," Mr. Untermeyer explained, "but we'll do the best we can."

Many of the later arrivals were unaware of what had happened and clamored to be fed, unmindful of the difficulties. Some of them did not hesitate to express their displeasure and to criticize the arrangements which had been made for their reception.

Coolidge's Double Appearance.

After the storm ceased the waiters succeeded in restoring a semblance of order, and a limited amount of supper was available. But the rush for the house was so great that the police continued to keep guard at the doors, and many of the guests returned to town to eat belated suppers at restaurants along Broadway.

There was more excitement when word was passed among the delegates and their women folk that President Coolidge had arrived and was within the tent.

"That's he, there—sitting at that table!" was the excited rumor which spread rapidly. A crowd gathered and a man with sandy hair in a drab Palm Beach suit suddenly found himself in danger of being mobbed by an onrush of the curious.

It was Edward J. Kierney of Lowell, Mass., a delegate to the convention and, for a time, he had difficulty in convincing Mr. Untermeyer's guests that he had not just arrived from Washington to take part in the garden party. No two men could look more alike than Mr. Kierney and the President. "And I may add that it isn't any credit to either of us," said Mr. Kierney.

In addition to the twenty motorcycle policemen from New York, Greystone and its elaborate grounds were guarded during Mr. Untermeyer's party for the Democratic delegates by Captain Edward Connolly of the Yonkers police, forty-five patrolmen, six sergeants, a dozen motorcycle policemen and ten plain-clothes men. Nothing, it was said last night, had been reported missing.

The storm cleared away in time to permit Eddie Cantor, Mary Eaton and members of the "Kid Boots" company to give dances and musical numbers in the Greek theatre. There also was a musical program by Sam Franko's orchestra and the famous Greek gardens were elaborately decorated.

Hostesses who assisted Mr. and Mrs. Untermeyer in receiving were Mrs. Maxwell Hall Elliott, Mrs. John Foley, Mrs. Michael Cosgrove, Mrs. Barbara Porger, Mrs. Helen Varick Boswell, Miss Portia Willis, Mrs. Eta Kchaya, Mrs. Orlando von Bonnewitz, Mrs. Charles Tiffany, Mrs. Martin T. Manton, Mrs. Ella G. Hull Fuller, Mrs. Charles E. Burch, Mrs. Ernestine Stewart, Mrs. Clarence Burns, Mrs. James J. Walker, Mrs. Edward Lucas, Mrs. John Leckie, Mrs. Alton Noyes Doe, Mrs. Royal S. Copeland and Mrs. John H. McCooey.

In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Untermeyer entertained 120 members of the Virginia delegation and their wives at dinner. There was no speaking.

Colonel William B. Thompson, a Republican, entertained the Democratic delegation from Arizona last night at his estate which adjoins Greystone.