

58/78FLOOD TOWN PROTESTS:

Down came the rain, as if it were out to deluge the world and we hadn't had a drop for years. After a fortnight's respite of fairly good weather, here it was again, a storm turning afternoon into night; the evening into watery desolation. In the morning the overnight floods had partly subsided, but Wickford, in Essex, still cursed its terrible luck, inundated for the 4th time, in a summer it will never forget.

Wickford complains that big scale new building in the district is the cause for it all. They say water flows into the River Crouch far more quickly from the multitude of roofs than it did when the area was farmland. But you can't put the clock back, so the authorities will have to devise new ways of dealing with the rush of water that makes life in Wickford a nightmare.