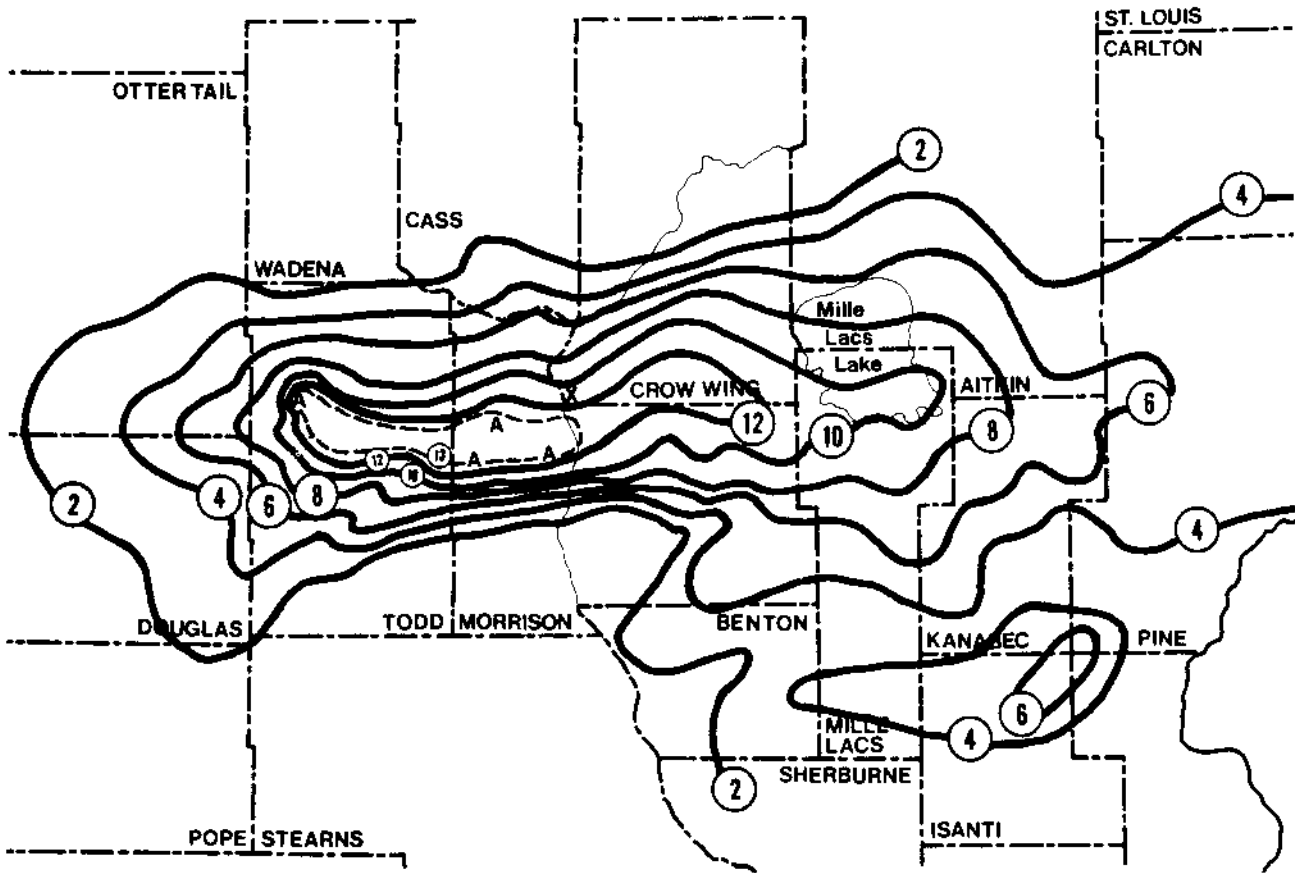


**"GRAND DADDY" OF FLASH FLOODS**  
**(Little Falls)**  
**July 21-22, 1972**



**MOST DAMAGING FLASH FLOOD IN MINNESOTA'S**  
**HISTORY: July 21st-22nd, 1972**

The worst flash flood in Minnesota's history to date started about mid-afternoon on the 21st, in the west along the Otter Tail and Douglas County line and ended about daylight on the 22nd, south of Duluth along the Minnesota-Wisconsin Border. The rains fell generally in an 8 to 10-hour period at any one point. This flood caused the greatest monetary losses ever experienced in the State for a flash flood and also had the greatest 24-hour official rainfall amount ever recorded in Minnesota. Flood damages were estimated at \$20,000,000. The 24-hour rainfall at Fort Ripley was 10.84 inches, exceeding the previous all-time 24-hour rainfall for Minnesota of 10.75 inches on July 20, 1909 (at Beaulieu in Mahnomon County). The isohyet map was analyzed from 245 reports: 15 National Weather Service Cooperative Stations, 15 county civil defense officers' reports and about 210 reports from the Future Farmers of America Rainfall Project, a program organized by the State Education Department and operated by the high school agricultural instructors. These reports make this the most documented heavy rain-storm in the state's history.