A DAILY LOG OF THE TETON DAM FLOOD

Sugar Second Ward
Rexburg, Idaho North

June 5, 1976
to
November 7, 1976

Bishop: Glenn W. Dalling
Counselor: Dean S. Arnold
Counselor: Max Palmer

From the Church News 12 June 1976

Aerial view shows Sugar City, Idaho, the worst-hit community, buried in water shortly after the flood. Sugar City wards meetinghouse is in upper left.

Idaho Members Fight Flood

BY DAVID CROFT Church News Staff Writer

REXBURG, IDAHO

Forty thousand persons, more than 90 percent of them Church members, were driven from their homes June 5 when the Teton Dam broke and flooded the Upper Snake River Valley.

A wall of water varying 12 to 20 feet high narrowly missed the communities of Teton and Newdale, but slammed with full force into Sugar City, Salem and Hibbard, destroying more than 50 percent of the homes and damaging all structures in those rural towns. St. Anthony, Roberts and other communities also were flooded.

The water continued to rage into Rexburg, flooding two of the three Rexburg city stakes and just missing Ricks College.

The fast-moving, debris-laden water ripped through walls and collapsed floors, picked up cars like bobbing corks and dumped them haphazardly downstream.

Houses were torn from foundations, some to be churned to bits, while others were to be deposited almost undamaged some distance away.

The flood water continued down the valley, causing some damage in Idaho Falls, then burying Firth before flooding through parts of Blackfoot and continuing down to be contained by the old American Falls Dam.

Damage estimates in the millions of dollars, set by air reconnaissance during the height of the flood, were increased twofold or more after observers viewed the damage from the ground when waters receded June 6 from the Rexburg-Sugar City area.

However, the cost of material goods was not the concern of priesthood leaders nearly as much as the effect on the people, who by Sunday afternoon were beginning to realize the permanent change in their lives as a result of the disaster.

Most of the homeless gathered at Ricks College, which is located on a hill and which became the center of relief efforts by the Church, Civil Defense, Red Cross and other agencies.

At the college, Harry J. Maxwell, dean of academic affairs, and Clark Whitehead, director of personnel, directed the efforts of the college Saturday night and Sunday morning.

College Pres. Henry B. Eyring was in Idaho Falls at a wedding Saturday when the flood hit. He was unable to return to the campus that night, but arrived early Sunday morning.

Dr. Maxwell said the college opened its dorms to the refugees and coordinated housing off campus in undamaged Rexburg homes.

The college also provided meals, using its own supplies, an initial shipment from Church Welfare that arrived late Saturday night and business and private sources in undamaged areas of Rexburg.

The Manwaring Center on campus was the location for most of these activities, as well as functioning as an information exchange center, message center and distribution point for clothing, bedding and other items.

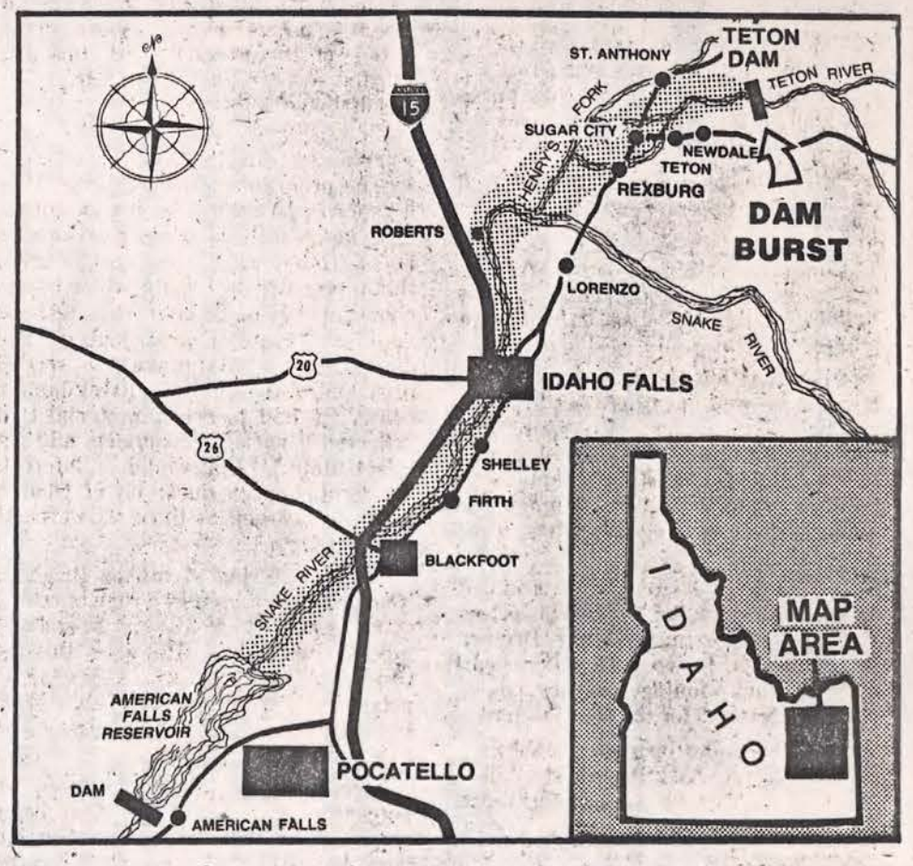
By 8 a.m. Sunday, the information desk in the Manwaring Center was able to send messages throughout the United States and many families attempted to contact relatives outside the disaster area to assure them they were all right.

Officials were both surprised and pleased at the low death toll. By Tuesday, June 8, only eight deaths had been confirmed.

At 10 a.m. Sunday, the Rexburg Idaho and Rexburg Idaho North stakes held a joint conference in the college fieldhouse. More than 1,500 attended.

After the meeting opened with the hymn, "Come, Come Ye Saints," Rexburg Idaho Stake Pres. Mark G. Ricks said there are various state and local agencies ready to help. "We feel like we

Continued on page 7



Water pouring from the broken Teton Dam finally emptied into the American Falls Dam near Pocatello.

THE TETON DAM FLOOD

5 June 1976

Between 11:00 A. M. and noon, the people in the Sugar City area were alarmed by the radio. Police, friends, neighbors and relatives warned them that they must prepare to leave their homes. The call came: "Prepare to leave your home immediately--the Teton Dam has a break in it !"

We were advised not to take time to pack anything--but to leave and go to high ground. It was suggested we go to the Rexburg hill, to the college area.

Most of the people in our ward did go to the campus. Others went to relatives or friends who lived away from the danger area.

One sister in our ward, Sister Leah Weston, didn't get the news of the flood and stayed in her home during the flood and all that night. She stayed upstairs during a black and quiet night.

Don Ellis, owner and manager of station KRXK should have credit for saving many lives as he heeded the danger warning and flew over the dam and was there during the time it broke. He broadcast exactly what was happening and told people over and over: "This is no joke. Get out ! " C B radios also were a source which warned many people and saved many lives.

It all happened on one of the most beautiful of Idaho days and it seemed very unreal that something so devastating and meaningful in our lives could be happening with the sun shining so brilliantly and nature at her peak. People all over Rexburg Hill looked like they were out on some pleasant outing, offering sandwiches or drinks and showing comradery for one another as silently they watched the gray-brown mass engulf each area. Only the trees showed and many houses and smaller objects floated along like gay little ships. The terrible crashing noises and cries of the thousands of animals could not be heard--it was like a silent movie that was happening to someone else.

Those who were on the hill or could get there were asked to register at the Manwaring Center so it could be known who was accounted for, and President Sonderegger called a meeting for 7:00 p.m. Saturday night in the Fieldhouse for all members of our stake. A dazed group assembled in every kind of a costume imaginable, and listened to his words of courage and comfort. He announced we would have a meeting the next morning in the same place and would receive further instructions.

The flood waters had rushed through the town of Sugar at 1:35 p.m. and by 5:00 p.m. the first water was barely south of Rexburg. It was eight miles wide. The mistake of the people was that they all anticipated rising waters instead of rushing waters. The things they took with them were not their most precious things, but emergency items, food, water, blankets, in order to live through possibly several days on the hill.

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The college offered to host our homeless people. Our ward members were scattered about in all directions. Each one wondering what had happened to our home, our neighbors, our church, our schools, our town.

We were in a state of shock and panic. All had a prayer in their hearts for the safety of all and protection of property. As the reality set in on the hill, many grieved for their genealogy records and precious records such as diaries, photographs, movies, colored slides, but above all for their genealogy next after the safety of loved ones.

During the time of anxiety for the first few hours, and in some cases for several days while trying to locate loved ones, all realized the true value of material things in comparison with human life, and all expressed their gratitude for loved ones, the Gospel and the Priesthood.

We slept that first night from exhaustion, rather than peace of mind and wondered what the morrow may bring.

6 June 1976 Sunday

On a normal Sunday this day would have been our Fast and Testimony meeting, but to our ward members this was a day of sadness as many tried to get back to their homes to discover sights that were difficult to believe.

The Bishopric quickly made a ward membership list from memory in the Fieldhouse at the close of the special stake meeting that was called by President Sonderegger and President Ricks for all flood victims. They told members of the situation we were to face and the tremendous task ahead of re-building. We were reminded to keep our faith and have courage.

It was a humorous spectacle, had anyone been in the mood for it, to see the various attires present at that meeting. It added to the feeling it was all a dream to see everyone in work clothes on a Sunday morning at the place we go dressed up for conference. Even the chorister got up in a work shirt, jeans stiff with dirt, and cowboy boots. But it didn't really matter. We realized a lot of things didn't really matter. The spirit of the occasion and the lives of one another were all that mattered, not niceties of dress.

Most had lunch which was served at the cafeteria in the Manwaring Center from the day of the flood for several months, giving life-saving nourishment. Without the facilities of the college, both in food preparation and serving and housing, one tries to picture what we could have done.

By early morning equipment, trucks, and men from Utah specializing in restoring our power were pouring in, as were the National Guard units and everywhere was activity as they began trying to restore our life-lines. The Sugar Overpass one mile north of town was dynamited Sunday evening to prevent accident as the center bridge was gone. This cut off communication back and forth from the north for about a week until the Guard had a temporary bridge over the Teton one mile to the west and a detour was established from highway 191 north of the overpass past Kenneth Romrell's, and Meyers Brothers one mile and south until again joining Highway 191 south of Sugar, which was used until the end of September when the Teton River Bridge by the overpass was completed.

7 June 1976 Monday

This was a day of heavy labor for all members, young and old. Everyone was trying to salvage some of his personal belongings. It was a difficult task as they had to go into sticky mud in some places knee deep to rescue a few things. They didn't have rubber footwear at first.

Power, water, and phone service were gone. Heavy debris piled everywhere made the task more difficult.

Monday night all Stake Presidents, Bishoprics and Relief Society Presidents were called to a special meeting with Bishop Brown and Relief Society President Barbara Smith from Salt Lake City sent from the General Authorities to give us instructions.

The Bishop's Storehouse was established at the College Motor Pool area. Social Services in Room 359 Manwaring Center. The COB building would be setting up pay phones. Banking at Idaho First parking lot.

The Church will contact all missionaries as to the welfare of their families. One of the Idaho Falls Stakes would take over the missionary expenses for a while.

The head military authority for the disaster was to be Major General Brooks who will be stationed in the Field House Turf.

Everyone is advised to take pictures, keep records of everything that happens during clean-up. Temporary housing is on the way. People living on campus must be prepared to leave by July 10. College will begin as scheduled.

Bishop Brown suggested we put temporary housing on our own property if possible.

Our Stake House will be cleaned and will be set up as headquarters station for our Stake.

Sister Smith said to plan, then work. Take time to socialize and do have a sense of humor. Pray often. It will take patience and wisdom.

Bishop Brown said: Love from President Kimball.There is no breaking point for the valiant. Help people keep together. Little children will be affected--have patience with them.

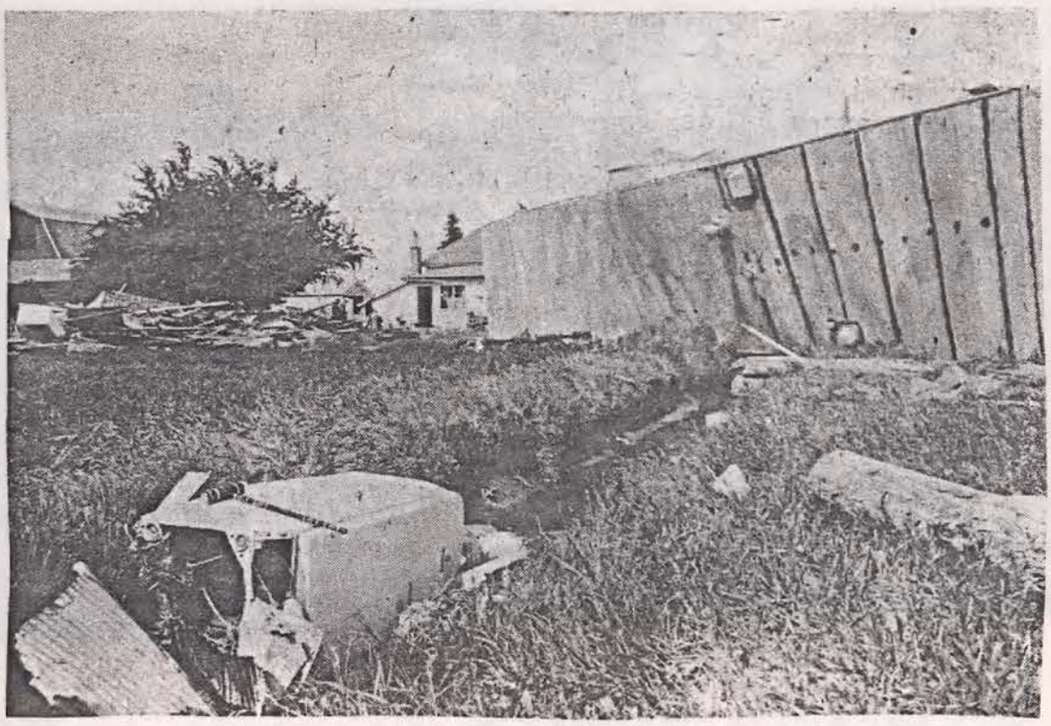
Downed by the flood

The flood and a few sticks of dynamite solved a problem for the state highway department. Before the Teton Dam broke, highway officials couldn't decide what to do with the overpass on old U.S. Highway 191-20 north of Sugar City. The flood made the decision for them.

The raging water knocked down one of the spans on the overpass, shown above, and the highway department used dynamite on the other one because it was a safety hazard. The overpass will not be rebuilt, officials say. An at-grade crossing will be put in its place.

Sugar Ward Chapel

Sugar City



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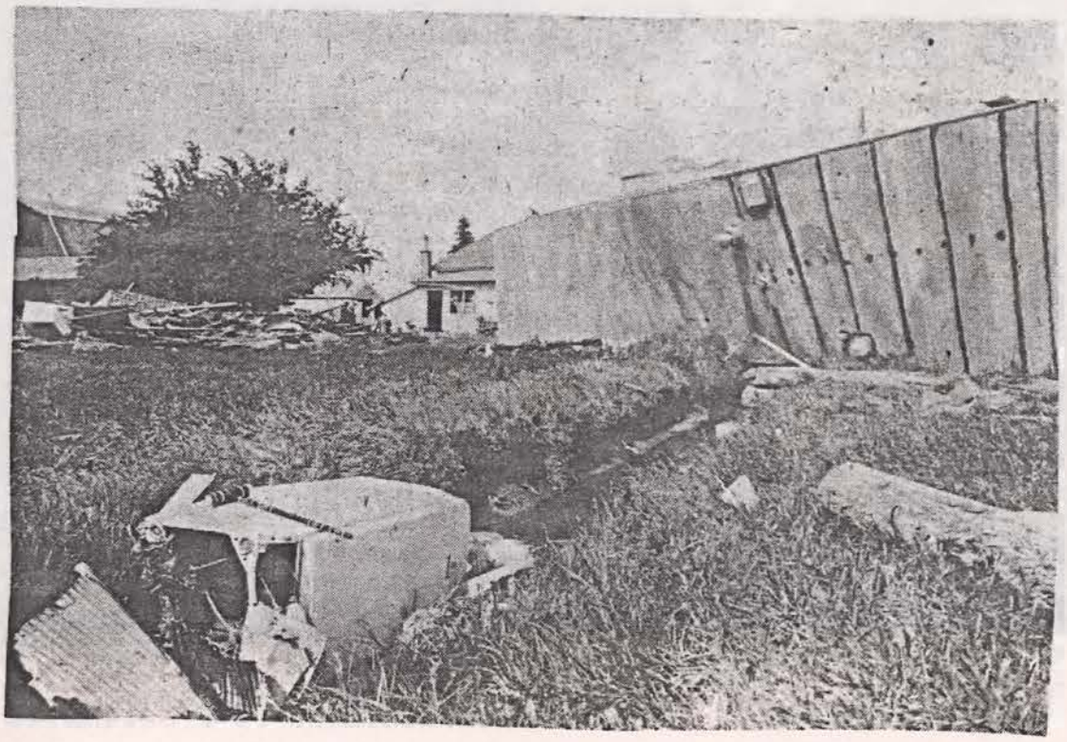

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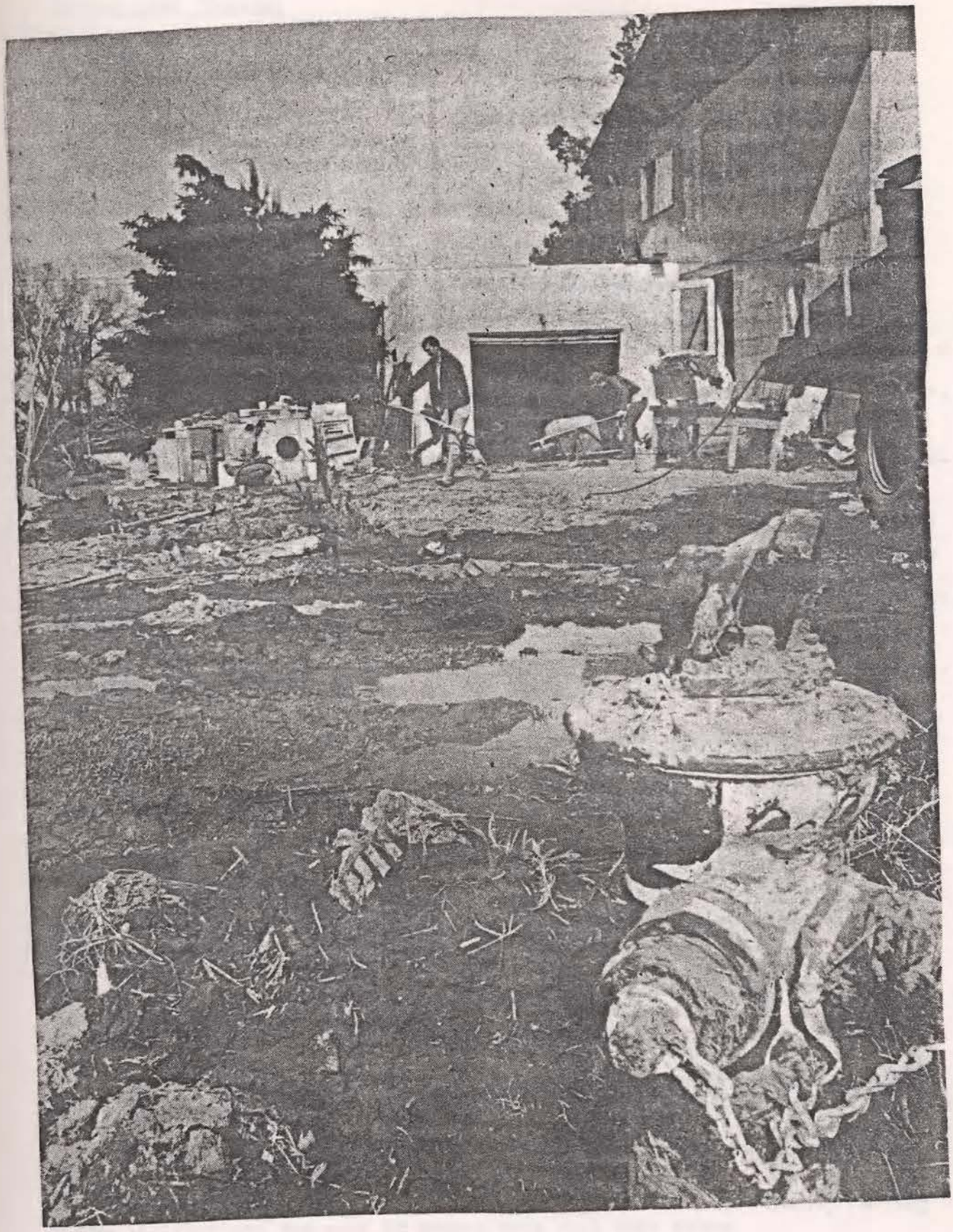

8 June 1976 Tuesday

Our ward set up a base station in the foyer of the High School and our Priesthood was organized.

Our people were so very busy this first week it was difficult to find men who could help man the station. A dear brother from the Newdale Ward came to our rescue. Fritz Powell volunteered to set up a C.B. radio communication for us and stayed at the base for us all this week, taking time off from his regular job of delivering fuel.

The Red Cross set up headquarters in the gymn. Tetanus shots were available at all times. They provided free rubber boots, gloves, heavy sox to wear in the boots, mops, plastic pails, chlorox, brooms, dustpans, diapers, paper towels, plastic bags of all sizes, laundry detergents, to name a few of the items.

One corner of the gymn was prepared for a kitchen area where hot dishes, sandwiches, drinks, fruits and cookies were served at all hours of the day. The food was sent over from the Manwaring Center and was provided by the Church Welfare Center. Case goods from this source were on the south bleachers of the gymn and the members were welcome to help themselves for a day or two's supply as needed if they were doing their own cooking. We were cautioned not to take advantage of this help by trying to restore our storage that had disappeared. Meals could be obtained either at the Sugar-Salem High School Gymn or at the Manwaring Center, whichever was most convenient. This enabled everyone to spend full time salvaging what they could from their homes before any further water damage.

The Army and Reserve Units brought in water tanks and emergency toilets. Security Guards were posted at all entrances.

The roads are in bad shape--torn up and washed away.

Bishop Dalling advised us to work on all salvageable items and to clean mud and debris away. Carpets are not salvageable.

Requests were made for machinery help.

Most of our people are wearing clothes donated by Welfare, D. I. and individuals. Even Saturday night trucks were being loaded with clothing and boxes of canned goods for our use. By Sunday morning, the gymn at the Kirkham had its floor covered with clothing which many were grateful to look through since they only had what they were wearing at the time of the flood. On the turf at the Fieldhouse there were boxes of clothing and boxes of canned goods donated by others outside the area from their own year's supply.

From Sunday on, the Turf at the Fieldhouse had the Red Cross, Disaster Assistance, Small Business Administration, Army Corps of Engineers to help us.

We all look a bit different in our new costumes, but so very grateful to have this help.

Our ward will meetin the gym each evening at 6:00 p.m. Bishop Dalling gives instructions and news of events that will take place.

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Our people were so very busy this first week it was difficult to find men who could help man the station. A deer hunter from the Needle Ward came to our rescue. Price Powell volunteered to set up a Ham radio communication for us and stayed at the base for us all this week, taking time off from his regular job of delivering fuel.

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Stamp Mailing advised us to work on all salvageable items and to clean out and dispose of the rest. Carpets are not salvageable.

Showers were made for sanitary help.

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9 June 1976 Wednesday

All have the need for rubber gloves and rubber foot-wear. The mud in our homes is deep and sticky. The work is heavy. People are working long hours. Spirit and hope is good.

The water level in homes was around five feet in Sugar and seven north of town. Furniture looked like a giant mixmaster had been at work. Items which could float such as tables and mattresses preserved some things. Oddities occurred where items were dry or untouched whereas something right beside it was ruined or swept away. Everyone had spiritual, tearful, and humorous incidents to recall. One thing that made it bearable was that it had not happened to one alone, but all shared the same disaster and somehow it seemed easier to bear that way. There was no use feeling sorry for oneself as it had happened to everyone. The feeling of brotherly love and compassion and gratitude for each other was very strong. Each understood how the others felt because they were experiencing the same ups and downs.

We were warned to be extra careful handling food and eating. We wash in a chlorine solution.

A Day Care Nursery has been set up in Rexburg East Stake Center.

Volunteer laundry service has been offered to us by all surrounding wards who were not affected by the flood. St. Anthony is on limited water and so the closest laundromats are Ashton and Rigby. Many are being helped by relatives not in the flood area in washing their clothes. There are some running streams of water in which people are rinsing the first mud from their belongings and some are hauling in water in which to rinse their things. Others have to put them in storage or leave them on their lawns covered with mud since all water and sewer lines are destroyed.

Everyone is spending many hours standing in line for HUD and Red Cross services.

Dirk Harris, a resident of long ago, has come to offer inspection service to our homes. This inspection helps the home owner to have an idea what can or should be done to his home. All have surely appreciated this free service.

So many are coming to give help. We are learning what compassionate service is all about.

The Ammon Stake has been assigned to serve our ward and how grateful we are for them. Each day they come in mass numbers to help with our needs, and they bring such a sweet and willing spirit with them. We receive courage from them to continue on.

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10 June 1976 Thursday

We must keep a record of our daily chores in restoration and take pictures. Larry Hibbert, Bob Oliphant, and Harvey Jackman have offered this service to our ward. They are spending many hours each day going to every home.

One of the Idaho Falls Stakes offered to pay the keep of our missionaries until their families can take over again.

Trying to work on the city water.

Dee Ard is in charge of the heavy equipment for our ward.

Bishop Dalling reminded us not to destroy buildings until official word has been given.

A dump yard has been set up near the Nedrow Produce Company.

Cleanliness stressed as there are a few cases of diarrhea and stomach cramps.

11 June 1976 Friday

People are getting tired and weary of the heavy labor. The weather is cold today and makes it difficult to work in the mud.

Cattle farmers in the area have been busy trying to round up stray animals. If they were able to survive the first wave of water, many were able to swim and get out of the water within a mile out toward Egin and south St. Anthony. Several big cattle drives have rounded up a lot which were on the fringes of the flood. Meyers Brothers were able to recover about 4300 animals out of 6,000. Horses seemed to fight the water more and were hurt and drowned in greater percentages than the cattle.

Army Engineers are coming to move debris from streets. They must have a permit to move on private property.

President Kimball and Boyd K. Packer will be here to meet with the Rexburg North and Wilford ward at 2:15 Sunday in the Field House. All members are so anxious to hear him.

Bishop Dalling has requested a meeting of all Melchizidek Priesthood and Relief Society Presidencies after conference in his office.

We have been counseled by our leaders not to use food stamps, but to go to the Bishop's Storehouse. The Red Cross is also giving out money for shoes and clothing, also some for gas and food. Some are using this money; others are not. All stores in Sugar and Rexburg are closed so purchases must be made outside the area, which is difficult.

We are filling out forms for Government appraisers to begin Saturday.

The Bishop told us to observe the Sabbath Day regardless of circumstances.

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MESSAGE FROM THE STAKE PRESIDENCIES

June 12, 1976

BROTHERS AND SISTERS

The last few days have been a great testimony to us of the importance of our families and the significance of the family as a unit. It is our hope and desire that all of us will find the time to hold our family and individual prayers. The Lord will continue to bless us as we bond together, individually and collectively.

Although times are difficult and will continue to be difficult for some time, we have an opportunity for family closeness that is rarely possible. Family unity can be enhanced and expanded by taking time to hold Family Home Evening on Monday night. The world is amazed at our capacity to pull together under such circumstances. May we suggest that you utilized this principle to plan together as families for the future and discuss what steps must be taken to restore your homes, farms, and businesses. Discuss in detail what financial and other resources are available to meet these needs. The Lord will not only bless us for our efforts as a group, but as a family unit.

We know that you have been working hard to lift yourselves from the mire. The task of recovery will be long and arduous. Take the time to relax and join together in spiritual and recreational activities. We have every assurance that the Lord will bless you for your faith and humility and for observing the Sabbath Day.

Mark G. Ricks
Keith L. Peterson
Ferron W. Sonderegger

Pres. Keith L. Peterson, Rexburg East Stake
Pres. Mark G. Ricks, Rexburg Stake
Pres. Ferron W. Sonderegger, Rexburg North Stake

12 June 1976 Saturday

One week ago today it all began! It is a cold rainy day. People are trying to work, but by noon many are giving up. The crops that were saved need the rain, but the flooded areas don't. What a blessing it is to be able to go back to the dorms or college housing and have hot showers clean clothes, food already prepared, and a place to rest from the days' work. A chance to get away from the depressing work on our flooded homes, renews our spirits.

Sister Famie Pincock, Homemaking Counselor in the Relief Society, feels she must leave Sugar City to live with her sisters in Provo. Verla Arnold, Relief Society president, feels a great sorrow in losing Famie--but does understand her problems at this time. Famie talked to Bishop Dalling about leaving. He gave her his blessing and understood that this would be best for her.

We do hate to see the pioneers of our community leave as they have so much to offer us.

We received a message from the Stake Presidents today.

Harvey Wilford has been the Priesthood Authority in charge at the base all this week.

Taylor's Chevrolet Garage loaned a pickup truck to our wards to be used at our command post as long as we need it. This was a most generous and helpful offer.

Some families have been out of the area staying with relatives in Plano, Rigby, Idaho Falls, etc. and have been commuting back and forth with their salvageable items from their homes, clothing, etc. and working by days and staying with relatives by night. Others have not come back at all up to this time. The widows have gone to their children's homes and are staying on there. Children have come in and helped their widowed mothers with their problems and given the comfort and courage they need so badly at this time.

13 June 1976 Sunday

Ward members expressed appreciation for the Sabbath Day. We are so grateful to rest from our labors.

Most of us had to attend conference in our work clothes as our own clothing hadn't been cleaned. Our clothing that had to be dug from the mud required washing many times (sometimes 8 to 10 waters) to restore them.

Bishop Dalling asked the ward members to fast in preparation to hear President Kimball and Boyd K. Packer. The Field House at Ricks College was packed. They met with the Rexburg Stake first and then our stake second. Their messages gave us hope and renewed our spirit to continue on.

Governor Cecil Andrus expressed appreciation for the help of all those who have helped the flood stricken families. He also promised that government agencies will help us rebuild, and said he was happy to be able to hear President Kimball.

President Kimball said no one's problems are so great that they couldn't

12 June 1976 Saturday

One week ago today it all began! It is a cold rainy day. People are trying to work, but by noon many are crying up. The troops that were served need the rain, but the flooded areas don't. What a blessing it is to be able to go back to the dorms or college housing and have hot showers, clean clothes, food already prepared, and a place to rest from the days' work. A chance to get away from the depressing work on our flooded homes, renews our spirits.

Sister Paula Pilcock, Reservation Commander in the Relief Society, feels she must leave Sugar City to take with her sisters in Provo. Verla Arnold, Relief Society president, feels a great sorrow in losing Paula--but does understand her problems at this time. Paula talked to Bishop Dalling about leaving. He gave her his blessing and understood that this would be best for her.

We go late to see the pioneers of our community leave as they have so much to offer us.

We received a message from the State President today.

Survey aircraft has been the Pleasanton Authority in charge at the base all this week.

Taylor's Chevrolet Garage loaned a pickup truck to our ward to be used at our command post as long as we need it. This was a most generous and helpful offer.

Some families have been out of the area staying with relatives in Pleasanton, Rigby, Idaho Falls, etc. and have been commuting back and forth with their salvageable items from their homes, clothing, etc. and working by days and staying with relatives by night. Others have got come back at all up to this time. The widows have come to their children's homes and are staying on there. Children have come in and helped their widowed mothers with their problems and given the comfort and courage they need so badly at this time.

13 June 1976 Sunday

Ward members expressed appreciation for the Sabbath Day. We are so grateful to rest from our labors.

Most of us had to attend conference in our work clothes as our own clothing hadn't been cleaned. Our clothing that had to be dug from the mud required washing many times (sometimes 5 to 10 washes) to restore them.

Bishop Dalling asked the ward members to fast in preparation to hear President Kimball and Boyd K. Packer. The Field House at Ricks College was packed. They met with the Rexburg Stake first and then our stake second. Their messages gave us hope and renewed our spirit to continue on.

Governor Cecil Andrus expressed appreciation for the help of all those who have helped the flood stricken families. He also promised that government agencies will help us rebuild, and said he was happy to be able to hear President Kimball.

President Kimball said to one's problems are so great that they wouldn't

have been worse. He said he expects great strength. He also said that we should rebuild our lives with out homes (3 Ne. 27:27). He suggested we exercise our Family Home Evening blessings, also that we should be very aware of our families and establish family patterns as soon as possible again. We should build a bright future. We should pray for our leaders and the afflicted, reminding us that 170,000 saints came on 650 ships as immigrants and over 6,000 lost their lives crossing the plains or coming to Utah. He also stressed we should build our houses even better and more serviceable.

Elder Boyd K. Packer said he saw those who have almost nothing sharing with those who have nothing. He encouraged us to live as Latterday Saints, be steady emotionally. He referred to the family (D & C 38:10) and talked of the parable of the fig tree cursed. He suggested putting our families together and getting organized and living on a schedule. LDS wards should get on a normal schedule as soon as possible. He mentioned the Long Prairie Ahead and that it was a long haul and we should live each day normally, get enough sleep, etc. so we could continue to our destination. We are all examples to the rest of the world and we must be aware of that. Calamity is not always a result of sin.

Words of hope

It will be the strong people of the upper valley who will rebuild their communities and not the government, Gov. Cecil Andrus tells a congregation gathered at Ricks College Sunday. Andrus spoke at the gathering along with Pres. Spencer W. Kimball of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Andrus, right, is shown here with Dr. Henry B. Eyring, president of the college.

Words of hope

It will be the strong people of the upper valley who will rebuild their communities and not the government, Gov. Cecil Andrus tells a congregation gathered at Ricks College Sunday. Andrus spoke at the gathering along with Pres. Spencer W. Kimball of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Andrus, right, is shown here with Dr. Henry B. Eyring, president of the college.

Strengthen ties, Kimball urges, use pioneer spirit

President Spencer W. Kimball of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is urging flood-stricken families of the Rexburg area to draw close and strengthen ties of love and family patterns as they work to rebuild their homes.

Kimball and Elder Boyd K. Packer of the LDS Council of 12 spoke to Rexburg LDS Stakes and the Wilford LDS Ward at two meetings Sunday.

Kimball expressed the love of the presiding authorities of the church, saying, "We wanted to let you know firsthand that we love you. We ask the Lord to bless you and make you adequate to meet the situations that come along. We pray with you that the future of your area may be bright."

Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus also spoke to the families. He expressed appreciation to people who have battled to help flood-stricken folks and promised that all governmental units will help rebuild the area. "You people have, by your own strengths, survived the disaster," he noted. "It will be you, not the government, that makes this area great again."

Kimball said there is a great spirit of courage in the area which should stay with every family and community in the area. "Of course we will rebuild our homes and roads. We must rebuild our own lives too," he noted.

He encouraged priesthood members of the church to bless each member of their families with special prayers. He noted that if parents foster an attitude of love, children will have everything they need but their homes.

Families should re-establish their patterns and have family prayer twice daily, besides blessings on each meal, he said. "If we do these things, our children will grow up as they should, thinking of things for the future and not brooding over the past," he said.

He encouraged families to pray for their leaders, for the sick, for the distressed and needy, and to always give thanks that families got out of the path of the flood. He also told members to get enough rest, to avoid overworking and exhaustion.

"Children may wonder, 'Why isn't life normal as before, when I had my pets and daily chores?' We must work with them so they don't get disturbed in their minds," he said.

He noted that many have suffered calamities, and cited the example of a dam break in Italy which came at night, killing over 200. He noted that it was good that the local flood came in the daytime, when all were alert. "The fact that you came out with most of your little ones is a blessing," he said.

He noted that as the LDS pioneers of the 1800's came across the plains, over 6,000 lost their lives. He said wherever the LDS people were called to go, they abandoned lovely homes but rebuilt beautifully in new areas. "We pray that you will build so well, that your next homes will be better than the ones you had."

He encouraged members to have social activities and to play together, and said that they should renew their commitments to be closer to God and his commandments.

Packer said the members have an amazing spirit of courage. "You remind me of a statement of a friend of mine," he noted. "This man said, 'You Mormons — when we throw rocks at you, you duck and the rocks miss, so you thank the Lord for helping you duck. Then we throw them and hit you, and you thank the Lord for the discipline.' "

He noted that there are stakes in the church which are more needy than the local stakes.

"As you rebuild your homes, you can also rebuild your families, and knock out the narrow, dead-end streets of the mind," he said.

He offered several suggestions to flood-stricken families. One was to stand firm despite normal emotional ups and downs. "Enjoy your one blue day. Don't feel you are psychic, but try to get a pleasant outward countenance. Pick yourself up."

He urged strengthening the family, saying, "Now we've learned the difference between house and family, haven't we? He said families should gather together as soon as possible and give plenty of hugs and affection to little ones. "We can't put our houses up right away, but we can put our families together."

He also encouraged LDS Wards to get a normal sequence of meetings as soon as possible.

Speaking about working too hard, he said, "Pace yourselves. It is as if you are among the early saints and are only two days out from Nauvoo. Settle into the long haul."

He also noted that trials of the flood aren't a result of sin. "If you think calamity comes as a result of sin, how do you explain Christ's suffering on the cross?" he said.

"For people who ask why, I say this — maybe the Lord can get his work done just as well, and sometimes better, through this adversity," Packer said. "There will be devastation like this over the world ere long."

He also urged members to accept help from the LDS Welfare System, but to strive to become self-sustaining as soon as possible.

"Your example is to teach the church a great and important lesson, and the whole church is watching. Don't fail the test," he said. "We will help in every way we know how — sometimes by withholding help so you can pass the eternal test."

Pres. Spencer W. Kimball

Pres. Spencer W. Kimball

14 June 1976 Monday

The volunteers are pouring into our town everyday. They arrive at 9:00 a.m. with boots, rubber gloves, lunches, and drinking water. All groups are being coordinated by President Hillam of Idaho Falls. We can't explain the heart-felt thanks we have for them. Our base commander assigns them to our homes. They are willing to dig to save things for us that we are too tired to save for ourselves.

The Ammon Stake has been assigned to our ward. One day the Ammon Stake is in charge of our eating area--the next day the Iona Stake is in charge. They work so hard to keep eating facilities clean and serve nourishing food. We must wash in two waters, then rinse in a disinfectnat before eating. We appreciate this precaution. Ammon Stake and Newdale Ward have been taking our laundry. They spend many many hours then return it to us fresh and clean. This makes us feel so good to know that we can salvage and save a few things. The people put the muddy things in large plastic bags labelled with our name and ward and they are picked up every day and taken to these places, washed or sent to the cleaners free of charge, and returned to be picked up at the Sugar Gym where they were originally.

Protection from looting has been set up for us by Security. We surely appreciate this service as now all homes have their furnishings sitting outside in yards or any place they can find a place to put them. State patrolmen are everywhere checking every car and truck. There is a curfew of 9:00 p.m. and no one is allowed to enter Sugar City after that time. Many State Patrolmen who were on vacation have given up their vacations to come in here and police the flooded area for our protection. Some people have their things stored in potato warehouses; some in Tommy Miyasaki's chicken coop.

Bishop Dalling says: "Problems are opportunities in working clothes. Will power: Having the same ailment someone is describing to you--and not mentioning it."

15 June 1976 Tuesday

The Red Cross Service has been most helpful. They are everywhere offering help.

The Salvation Army put a trailer by the gymn to serve food all day. Their chili is delicious!

Two busloads of volunteer workers came today from Preston to help anywhere needed.

Ward members sign up for the help they need. At 9:00 a.m. each morning Bishop Dalling makes the assignments. They bring their lunches, drinking water and work clothing. Logan also sent one bus load today. They average around fifty people per bus.

Starting today Sister Shirley Rice will be in charge of our base operating the C.B. radio system. A priesthood authority is assigned each day to help.

14 June 1974 Monday

The volunteers are coming into our town everyday. They arrive at 9:00 a.m. with boots, rubber gloves, jumpsuits, and drinking water. 20 groups are being coordinated by President Hilles of Idaho Falls. We can't explain the heart-felt thanks we have for them. Our base commander welcomes them to our homes. They are willing to dig in and do anything for us that we are too tired to work for ourselves.

The Amoco Stake has been assigned to our ward. One day this Amoco Stake is in charge of our waking area--the next day the Twin Falls Stake is in charge. They work so hard to keep eating facilities clean and serve nourishing food. We must wash in two waters, then rinse in a disinfectant before eating. We appreciate this precaution. Amoco Stake and Hawaii Ward have been washing our laundry. They spend many many hours then return it to us fresh and clean. This makes us feel so good to know that we can survive and have a few things. The people put the sandwiches in large plastic bags labelled with our name and ward and they are picked up every day and taken to these places, washed and sent to the cleaners free of charge, and returned to be picked up at the Burger Qen where they were originally.

Protection from looting has been set up for us by Security. We surely appreciate this service as now all those have their furnishings sitting outside in yards or any place they can find a place to put them. State patrolmen are everywhere checking every car and truck. There is a curfew of 9:00 p.m. and no one is allowed to enter Sugar City after that time. Many State Patrolmen who were on vacation have given up their vacations to come in here and police the flooded area for our protection. Some people have their things stored in potato warehouses; some in Tommy Miyamaki's chicken coop.

Blaine Dalling says: "Problems are opportunities in working clothes. With sweat. Having the same almost someone is describing to you--and not exercising it."

15 June 1974 Tuesday

The Red Cross Service has been most helpful. They are everywhere offering help.

The Salvation Army put a trailer by the gym to serve food all day. Their child is delicious!

Two busloads of volunteer workers care today from Preston to help anywhere needed.

Just anyone sign up for the help they need. At 10:00 a.m. each morning Blaine Dalling makes the assignments. They bring their lunches, drinking water and work clothing. Logan also sent one bus load today. They average around fifty people per bus.

Starting today Silver Shirley Rice will be in charge of our base operating the C.B. radio system. A priesthood authority is assigned each day to help.

We are very grateful to Sister Rice, former Relief Society President, who is willing and able to do this service as she was not harmed by the flood.

The sewer pumps must be manned by volunteer workers to shut off and turn on by hand.

Those who are planning to restore their homes quickly may get forms to request appliances through HUD.

15 June 1976 Tuesday

Such a busy town in the daytime and a ghost town at night. Never had so many people in Sugar City at one time. Bus loads and carloads--people coming from everywhere.

Ward members are becoming confused as to what should be done with their homes.

Those with their own well water should take a sample to be tested--24 hours for a check.

People living in rent-free housing will be given priority on mobile homes.

Verla Arnold, Relief Society president, and Leah Belle Hawkes, counselor, visited some of the sisters around the town site. They found the sisters in good spirit and working hard to salvage. All who were visited expressed their desire to stay and rebuild. Our purpose was to encourage, show interest, and give any helpful information we could. It was very gratifying to hear they were planning to stay on.

Returned the pictures taken by Brothers Oliphant, Jackman, and Hibbert.

16 June 1976 Wednesday

Another cold gloomy day. Later it rained.

Government officials have complimented us on our industry.

HUD will be making another inspection. This must be with the homeowner. Those who qualify for mobile home, should prepare a site.

Appointments were made with farmers to meet with Soil Conservation Service. They will be here again tomorrow.

A thought for today: "To a man of strong character, misfortune may do him more good than harm." ....Roger Bacon.

Our volunteer help came today from the Paul and Rupert Area. There were three bus loads.

Results of the HUD preliminary survey are here to see at your convenience.

Do not begin to destroy your home until another team of appraisers from HUD consults with you.

Bishop orders necessary to obtain boots, shoes, and garments from now on.

When cleaning is done in homes by a volunteer, a family member should be there to assist.

17 June 1976 Thursday

Work continues on. Most homes now are cleared of furniture that could be moved and personal belongings.

A big move going on to remove garbage and debris. Large equipment is moving in to help.

The Southwick family came home from England where they have been the last six months, to find their home completely washed away.

HUD office in Fieldhouse will phase out Friday night. Then paper work will be done in Idaho Falls.

Building permits are required for new buildings--contact Rondo Barrus All trailers moved in will be issued temporary permits good until 1 July 1977. Short extensions can be made.

Stakes and flagging is available to mark your turn-off valve at the Sugar gym.

10—The Standard-Journal, June 17, 1976

Newspaper says engineer found cracks during dam construction

Huge cracks in a natural rock abutment on the right side of the Teton Dam were discovered by the project engineer during construction of the dam.

The engineer, according to the Los Angeles Times, reported the cracks — some of which were large enough for a man to walk through — to his superiors on the project, the newspaper reported.

Gilbert Stamm, commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, is quoted as saying the bureau "did not consider halting construction" after the large fissures were discovered.

The dam builders opted instead to attempt to seal off the fissures in the bedrock foundation of the $55 million dam with 500,000 cubic feet of grout.

Grout is a mixture of concrete, sand and water injected under pressure into such fissures. The bureau originally had estimated that 260,000 cubic feet of the mixture would be needed to make the foundation sound.

Government engineers were aware there were potential problems with the dam's foundation from the beginning of construction, Stamm acknowledged in an interview with a Times reporter.

Stamm said the bureau was aware, before construction began, there was soft, porous, fissured rock in the foundation of the dam.

Builders of the dam spent more than $1.8 million for grout to secure the foundation, the newspaper reported.

A monthly construction report filed in February of 1974 revealed "two unusually large fissures that cross the floor and extend into the walls."

One of the fissures was 10 feet wide and extended for at least 75 feet through the rock, the report showed.

Further exploration revealed a number of voids in the rock abutment, one of which was 12 feet wide and 100 feet long.

Morrison-Knudsen Construction Co. and Peter Kiewit Sons, contractors for the project, spent a number of weeks trying to seal off the fissures and voids, the construction reports show.

Results of the HUD preliminary survey are here to met at your convenience.

Do not begin to destroy your home until another team of appraisers from HUD consults with you.

Bishop orders necessary to obtain boats, shoes, and gasmasks from one.

When cleaning is done in homes by a volunteer, a family member should be there to assist.

17 June 1976 Thursday

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A big move going on to remove garbage and debris. Large equipment is moving in to help.

The Sonntheim family came home from England where they have been the last six months, to find their home completely washed away.

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Building permits are required for new building--contact Kondo Barrow. All trailers moved in will be issued temporary permits good until 1 July 1977. Short extensions can be made.

Stamps and Flagging is available to mark your turn-off valve at the water meter.

The Rapid-Journal, June 17, 1976

Newspaper says engineer found cracks during dam construction

Sugar City, Idaho: No one lives there any mor

By LAMAR CROSBY
Blackfoot News Writer

SUGAR CITY — It is a Tuesday afternoon, 10 days after the disastrous flood which flooded Sugar City. No one lives here anymore.

But the hearty, the uncompromising are here. They will be here until 8 each evening when they're run out of town.

Sugar City used to be their town. It still is, in their hearts at least.

There is not an undamaged home to be found. The eye cannot move without seeing rubble, destruction and water.

Mobile homes are lodged against railroad cars on the edge of town. In time, they too, will fall and be carted away as another reminder of the Teton Dam disaster of June 5, 1976.

From one side of town to the other the scene is one of destruction. The town's focal point, the LDS Church, is heavily damaged. Repair may be possible.

While there's hope for the church, there's little hope the bulk of the homes can ever be refurbished.

Some of them were swept hundreds of yards by the swift and substantial waters of the Teton Dam. Others stood their ground, but in the end are of marginal future value.

There is no electricity...or telephones...or running water.

But there is the stench that knows no hour of the day. It is here in the daytime, when some of the townspeople return, and it is there after 8 p.m., when the citizens must leave.

Sugar City by day is little more than a ghost town. Sugar City by night is deserted. There is no flicker of light, and there is no life.

Tuesday afternoon a retired school teacher talked about her life, her family, her home, her future.

Marva Holman, a widow, was smiling on the outside. It's obvious she was hurting on the inside.

Marva Holman had lived in the house on the corner down the street from her LDS ward for 30 years. She loves her community. She didn't say that. She didn't have to.

Her son, Bryce, and his family live two blocks away. Their home was damaged, too.

Her younger son, Keith, was helping. So was her daughter, Lee Ann, and her husband, Daniel Johnson, from Mexico City, Mexico.

Mrs. Holman was in California when she heard the news about the dam breakage. She rushed for home.

Then she called her daughter and son-in-law, who were vacationing in California. The Johnsons decided instantly where they would spend the rest of their vacation. They headed for Idaho and for Sugar City.

"I guess I'll try to rebuild somehow," Mrs. Holman said. "But I'm now on a fixed income, and I'm really not sure."

Keith made a contribution to the conversation at that point, noting their home had been appraised recently at $31,000 but would take $44,000 to rebuild.

"There was a grey house over there," Mrs. Holman said. "It's now over there," she said pointing in another direction.

"There was a white house over there," she said, pointing in still another direction. "It's over there," she said, turning slightly.

"Then there was a house over there," she said. "And it's way out there," she said, turning to her left.

Whether you turn left or right, or look straight ahead in Sugar City, there is no big difference. It is plain for the trained and untrained eye alike that devastation descended upon this community.

And as you leave, and return to the Rexburg area, there is relatively little improvement. The huge logs are on the side of the road, making you wonder how anything is left of value or with life.

Heavy equipment and skilled workers move in tandem. They've been moving mountains of debris, but to the naked eye it seems they're making little progress. That's deceiving.

It's easy to see the role, however, of the law enforcement people who, too, have been uprooted from their homes and moved here to keep looters and the sightseers out of the area. They move with precision and with meaning.

Then you turn and drive toward the small community of Teton. For quite a stretch there is debris, or water, or both. At any rate, you're reminded.

Then suddenly, you make a sharp left turn. On your right, on the side of a hill, are a few houses which escaped relatively unscathed.

There are some appliances on the lawn being dried out. Hopefully, they can be used again.

Then you notice it is a windy day. The U.S. flag is waving proudly from among those homes which remain habitable.

Suddenly, without warning or explanation, you are reminded. You are reminded it's good to be alive.

'IF WE LISTENED TO WARNINGS FROM EVERY ENVIRONMENTALIST DINGBAT, WE'D NEVER GET ANYTHING BUILT!'

Senators keep on top of bill to provide total compensation

By SEN. JAMES McCLURE

WASHINGTON — It is difficult to put into words the horrors which have occurred to many Idaho residents these past days as the result of the failure of the Teton Dam. Already hundreds of pages have been written, and thousands of photographs and television film clips have been used to show the damage and devastation which occurred.

The failure of the Teton Dam is really something of a precedent-setting development. To my knowledge there has not been a disaster of this type before. To be sure there was no act of God which caused the dam to fail. I am sure the investigations will continue for some months, or even years as to the exact cause of the failure.

There is no debate that this was a federal project, federally owned, federally constructed, and federally operated; therefore, it stands to reason that the federal government is responsible for any damages caused by its failure. I think we have finally gotten that point across to the Congress and the president.

I had been in contact with President Ford and his staff at the White House since viewing the disaster during its worst. I was understandably pleased when he made the decision to seek a supplemental appropriation to compensate the victims of the disaster. As a back-up, however, Sen. Frank Church and I introduced, and will keep active, another bill which would also provide for total and complete compensation of the damages from the Teton Dam flooding.

As soon as President Ford first declared portions of east Idaho as disaster areas federal teams from the Disaster Assistance Administration moved in. To those who were affected by the flooding, the federal assistance probably seemed slow in coming. Yes, it was slow, but I believe assistance came as fast as possible. To make sure, two staff members from the Senate Public Works Committee, at my request were dispatched to East Idaho. These two individuals are knowledgeable of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration and its workings. They report back to me at least once each day on the operation of the federal disaster teams. As a result of these daily reports I was able to make contacts in Washington to get things moving faster.

I also immediately assigned half of my Washington and Idaho staff members to devote their full energies to the disaster. In Idaho my staff members are at each of the four established disaster centers to take those problems which cannot be solved through regular means. We have had a few unusual requests too. For instance, on the first day after the dam broke, a woman came to us with a baby who needed goats' milk. Within a short time we not only had several gallons of goats milk available to her, but two live goats as well.

Most of the problems are more serious, however. We were extremely concerned that irrigation canals and facilities, destroyed by the flood, be repaired before crops in other parts of the valley burned for lack of water. After calls to various agency heads in Washington, the order came from the assistant secretary of Interior ordering the Bureau of Reclamation to begin immediate work on irrigation facilities. Within a short time four private contractors and the Army Corps of Engineers were at work.

Most importantly, however, is the direct help to the people hurt by this disaster. Nothing will compensate for the loss of life and personal property accumulated through the years. I would be less than honest if I said everything will be okay. It will not be exactly the same as it was.

Aid for flood victims is assured by Church

WASHINGTON — Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, is confident the government will make full restitution to flood victims left in the wake of the Teton Dam disaster.

Church said in a telephone interview with The Standard-Journal Tuesday that hearings were started Tuesday morning in Washington on legislation calling for full restitution for flood victims.

He said the hearings before the Senate water resources subcommittee will attempt to show that the flood was man-caused so the government should make full restitution to victims of the flood.

Being considered before the subcommittee is a bill sponsored by Church and Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, which would obligate the government to full restitution, Church said. He is chairman of the subcommittee.

Church said he expected the full Interior Committee to consider the bill by Wednesday. He thinks there will be no difficulty in passing the bill through the Senate.

As for the cause of the break in the dam, Church said that will be determined by another inquiry. The important thing now is to pay flood victims for their losses, he said.

He and McClure are using a dual strategy right now, Church said. They are supporting a measure submitted by President Gerald Ford calling for $200 million in aid, and they are also pushing their own bill.

That way he's confident they'll get something soon, he said.

Church says he's not worried about Congress granting some relief as "it's such a clear case of federal responsibility."

But in the meantime, it's important that people start rebuilding, he said.

He's set up an emergency office in Idaho Falls to help deal with the situation. It's in room 206 of the Federal Building.

Two of his staff members will be in that office from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. daily, he said, and they'll be doing field work in the flood area during the afternoons. The office will be open until the emergency is over.

He said anyone needing assistance in dealing with federal agencies involved in the rebuilding program can contact that office.

M-K president doubts firm has any liability

IDAHO FALLS — The president and chief executive officer of Morrison-Knudsen Co., one of the prime contractors of the Teton Dam, says he doubts the firm has any liability for failure of the dam.

At a stockholders meeting in Idaho Falls, William H. McMurren, who had refused to comment on the disaster until the end of last week, said he doesn't know why the dam failed.

He went on to say the company completed construction of the dam in accordance with Bureau of Reclamation drawings and specifications, according to a story in the Salt Lake Tribune.

There is no reason to believe "Morrison-Knudsen has any financial liability nor that the work was not up to the highest professional standards," he told the stockholders.

Dam workers scramble as structure bursts

The cement plant operations engineer for Morrison-Knudsen Co. says workers who were making a last-minute effort to save Teton Dam before it burst narrowly escaped death.

John Watson is quoted in the Idaho Statesman as saying the workers had only two or three minutes to spare when the dam burst June 5.

The workers, says Watson, knew the dam was going to burst moments before it did. Some of them escaped in vehicles and others climbed canyon walls to escape the water.

Watson says operating engineers Jay Calderwood, Owen Daley and Jack McGraw and Morrison-Knudsen Supt. John Bellegante were attempting to plug the leak in the dam with bulldozers when the structure gave way.

The men escaped, but the bulldozers they were using were lost, Watson says.

Meals dished up at college for refugees of flood

Meals for flood refugees are still being served at the cafeteria in the Manwaring Center at Ricks College.

Breakfast is served from 6-9 a.m., lunch from noon to 2 p.m. and dinner between 5-8 p.m.

Aid for flood victims is assured by Church

WASHINGTON — Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, is confident the people in southern Idaho will receive full reimbursement for flood damage done in the wake of the Twin Lakes disaster.

Church said in a telephone interview with The Bradford Journal Tuesday that hearings were started Tuesday morning in Washington on legislation calling for full restitution for flood victims.

He said the hearings before the Senate water resources subcommittee will attempt to show that the flood was man-caused, so the government should make full restitution to victims of the flood.

Today considered before the subcommittee is a bill sponsored by Church and Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, which would obligate the government to full restitution. Church said he is optimistic of the subcommittee.

Church said he expected the full Senate Committee to consider the bill by Wednesday. He thinks there will be no difficulty in passing the bill through the Senate.

As for the cause of the break in the dam, Church said that will be determined by another inquiry. The important thing now is to pay flood victims for their losses, he said.

He said McClure are doing a dual advocacy right now. Church said. They are supporting a measure introduced by President Gerald Ford.

M-K president doubts firm has any liability

IDAHO FALLS — The president and chief executive officer of Morrison-Knudsen Co., one of the prime contractors of the Twin Dam, says he doubts the firm has any liability for failure of the dam.

At a stockholders meeting in Idaho Falls, William K. McMahon, who had refused to comment on the disaster until the end of last week, said he doesn't know why the dam failed.

He went on to say the company issued construction of the dam in accordance with Bureau of Reclamation drawings and specifications, according to a story in the Salt Lake Tribune.

"There is no reason to believe Morrison-Knudsen has any financial liability on the work we did up to the highest professional standards," he said the newspaper.

Dam workers scramble as structure bursts

The crews that operated the Morrison Knudsen Co. were workers who were making a few minutes drive to save Twin Dam before it burst violently occupied death.

Jim Wilson is quoted in the Idaho Statesman as saying the workers had only two to three minutes to warn when the dam burst. Jim 2.

The workers, says Wilson, knew the dam was going to burst moments before it did. Some of them managed to validate and other claimed cargo with to escape the water.

Wilson says operating engineer Jay Chlebowood, Owen Foley and Jack McGuire and Morrison-Knudsen Supt. John Dillingham were managing to pick the lock in the dam with bulldozers when the structure gave way.

The men escaped, but the bulldozers they were using were lost, Wilson says.

Meals dished up at college for refugees of flood

Meals for flood refugees are still being served at the cafeteria in the Mountaintop County at Idaho College.

Breakfast is served from 6-7 a.m., lunch from noon to 1 p.m. and dinner between 5-6 p.m.

Major surgery needed for area road system

More than 40 miles of roadway, four bridges and the Rexburg airport will have to be rebuilt as a result of the Teton Dam flood, the director of the Idaho Transportation Department says.

Darrell Manning told the Idaho Statesman at least 21 miles of highway will require major reconstruction while another 21 miles will have to be repaved in the Upper Snake River Valley in the wake of the disastrous flood.

And those roads are in the state system alone, Manning said.

At least five miles of Highway 33 were destroyed while Highway 48 had to be cut in two places to allow flood waters to drain out of Roberts, Manning said.

In addition to the four bridges on the state highway system that were destroyed, another 100 bridges in the combined state and county road system were damaged.

One of the bridges — the Roberts Bridge — was already scheduled for replacement and another bridge over the North Fork of the Teton River was to be replaced, too.

Ed Wood of the Federal Highway Administration said 100 per cent federal funding will be sought to replace the affected roadways and bridges. Normally, federal funds are used to pay for 70 per cent of the cost of construction of roads and bridges.

The Rexburg airport will have to be completely reconstructed, Manning said.

Leave little ones with sitter while cleaning up

If you need someone to take care of your children while you're cleaning up the mess left behind by the Teton Dam flood, baby sitting services are available.

Take the little ones to the East Stake Center, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or to the Clarke Building at Ricks College.

If you must take your children to flood-damaged areas, remember to keep them from playing in the mud and flood water.

Repair work under way for damaged canal system

Work has begun to repair irrigation canals damaged by the Teton Dam flood to make it possible to irrigate 400,000 acres of farmland in the Upper Snake River Valley that was not damaged by the flood.

Four construction companies — Gibbons and Reed, Peterson Construction, Robert V. Burggraf Co., Morrison-Knudsen and Peter Kiewit Sons — are at work restoring the canals, according to the Idaho Statesman.

Rod Vissia, regional director of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, said the contractors will be paid on an hourly equipment-rental basis plus costs of materials.

Morrison-Knudsen and Peter Kiewit Sons were the prime contractors for the Teton Dam project.

Vissia said he is hopeful the work can be completed within the next 10 days.

Meanwhile, officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated some 112,000 acres were directly affected by the flood.

Crop yield in Madison and Jefferson counties alone will be reduced by 80 per cent, the department estimates.

Catholic Church gathering funds for flood victims

The Roman Catholic Church has donated $10,000 in emergency relief funds for victims of the Teton Dam flood.

In announcing the donation, Bishop Sylvester W. Treinen, Roman Catholic bishop of Idaho, also urged Catholics throughout the state to contribute more money to the emergency relief effort.

The bishop said he was thankful the disaster did not claim more lives than it did.

18 June 1976 Friday

Two busloads from Brigham City came today and one bus from Logan to help us. These people are so helpful and we appreciate their help. Without them we could never be as far along as we are.

HUD will supply furniture through general services if people use minimal repairs. They will pay for materials, but not for labor.

Bureau of Reclamation will set up claims office for damaged property. Forms will be handed out through the Bishops. Claims will include:

A. List of damages
B. Two appraisals on homes
   1. Hud will count
   2. Contractor
C. Reimbursement will be based on value before and after.
D. After special claim is filed, a special investigator will meet with owners.
E. To get businesses back, all they need is two bids and go to work.

Earl Booth, Architect in Ammon Stake, has offered his services for drawing house plans when we get to that stage.

President Sonderegger wants us to write down funny stories and happenings that have come from the flood--also spiritual experiences. He suggested we write to our congressmen telling our own stories of losses and what it has done to our family personally.

Neva Fullmer has been assigned to type the daily bulletin and have it ready each evening for our 6:00 o'clock meeting.

Alll members remark how they appreciate our daily meetings. It is good to talk to others and hear of the progress being made by every family. Most are confused as to what should be done with their property.

19 June 1976 Saturday

Could this whole new way of life only have started two weeks ago today?

The volunteers poured into town today. One bus from Star Valley, Wyoming. Two buses from Kaysville, Utah. One bus from Centerville. One bus from Twin Falls, Idaho. One bus from Burley, Idaho.

This morning at 7:00 a.m. the Idaho Falls Water Dept. came to hose off the streets. This washing is needed. The high-water run-off is causing added water to stand around many homes. They are working on canals.

All members have expressed their appreciation for our evening meeting each day. It is informative and seems to give us courage to continue on.

20 June 1976 Sunday

The Sabbath Day and all so grateful for a day of rest.

Our Sacrament meeting was held in the Field House at 3:00 p.m. Dean Arnold conducted. Music was by Donna Harris at the piano and Larry Hibbert conducting.

Bishop Dalling gave remarks and read an article from the First Presidency. This was the first opportunity for most members to partake of the sacrament.

After the sacrament, the speakers were Mike and Wilma Bingham who lived in our ward a few years ago. They cheered us up and gave words of encouragement.

A special musical number from Newdale Ward consisted of a sextette: Faye Schwendiman, Delilah Staker, Merle Haws, Thelma Howard, Betty Klingler, and Louise Schwendiman. They sang "The Lord's Prayer".

After remarks by President Grant Klingler we had a closing prayer.

We separated into a priesthood group, a Relief Society Group, and an APA group for a twenty minute meeting.

Our ward schedule for the next few weeks:

6:00 p.m. daily Sugar Gym

3:00 p.m. Sunday, Hart Field House, Sacrament meeting

4:30 p.m. Sunday Field House, Priesthood and R. S. meetings

No choir practice until Fall.

21 June 1976 Monday

We are rested and ready to begin another week.

City water and sewer still not approved for use.

Meals in the gym will not be served after 6:00 p.m.

We will continue to hold our evening meetings. We always begin by singing a hymn conducted by Larry Hibbert. A prayer is offered by Priesthood holders, then the Bishop gives us advice and answers questions. Sometimes we have someone tell a joke or do something funny to keep us in a happy mood. Bob Oliphant has helped with this.

It is important for us to remember to return equipment to the gym when we are finished so others can use it. Shovels, gloves, boots, and many items have been on loan to us from there.

20 June 1976 Sunday

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Bishop Dalling gave remarks and read an article from the First Presidency. This was the first opportunity for most members to partake of the sacrament.

After the sacrament, the speakers were Mike and Wilma Slingerm who lived in our ward a few years ago. They honored us by and gave words of encouragement.

A special musical number from Rosedale Ward consisted of a sextette: Faye Schwendiman, Delilah Stacer, Merle Haws, Thelma Howard, Betty Allinger, and Louise Schwendiman. They sang "The Lord's Prayer".

After remarks by President Orson Allinger we had a closing prayer.

We separated into a priesthood group, a Relief Society group, and an AFR group for a twenty minute meeting.

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It is important for us to remember to return equipment to the gym when we are finished so others can use it. Shovels, gloves, boots, and many items have been on loan to us from there.

All Doctors' offices are open now and functioning.

A meeting was held this morning with City Board and officials to determine n how to restore water and sewer systems.

22 June 1976 Tuesday

Volunteers came today from Davis County and Clearfield.

The "Reader's Digest" writers are here today writing about our disaster. This should be published about three or four months from now. Today Brother Floyd Luke and his daughter, Laurie, toured our area with these people. Laurie reported they had a very nice experience with them. She said, "We tried to teach them about our Gospel every time we had a chance."

Tomorrow they will interview the Hawkes family. They were on top of the overpass during the flood and watched their place go.

Bishop Dalling gave the results of the meeting last night with the government officials. Our town's water and sewer system is inoperable. This means we will be living in a trailer village on the east side of town. The property formerly owned by Cal Davenport, now owned by Dean Ricks and Tommy Miyasaki. This area will not house all residents. Some who have jobs in Rexburg may choose to live in a village there. We will live in these conditions until our town can be restored. Those who live out of the city limits will put trailers on their property as soon as they have power, wells checked, and sewer facilities prepared.

Bishop Dalling counseled us to slow down on our labor as we will have a long time to work on our homes while we are living in the village.

We were warned again to keep a detailed list of everything lost.

Former Bishop Calvin Davenport put on a funny act for us tonight to cheer us up.

23 June 1976 Wednesday

Flamm's furniture has offered ten gallons of free paint to anyone in need.

Ricks College Entertainment Series will present "The Johnny Whitaker Show" 24 June, free to all Flood Victims. Get your tickets at the Command Post.

A steam cleaner will be here from 10 to 4:00 p.m. for cleaning household appliances. This will be done at your home.

It has been a difficult task to clean items as they have been salvaged as we haven't had water available. Most things are brought from the homes mud-covered and have to remain that way for several days. Some water lines here and there have worked at times.

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Most of our sisters have had to haul muddy items to streams or places where water is available. One day one sister--Frances Dearing, loaded her car and went to the Barrus Canal to wash some of the mud off before sending to be laundered. Volunteers have been bringing water tanks in to wash things off which has been so helpful.

Our summer kindergarten program started today at the Teton School. Buses will start Thursday.

Churches and Seminaries will be restored 100% without building assessments to wards and stakes.

The following quotes are from Elder Lindgard, our Regional Representative:

a. "When we lose our souls because of bad attitudes--we really lose."
(F. Sonderegger--"Our attitudes have been great, from here on will make the difference.")
b. "Forewarn people not to expect too much."
c. "So-and-so got it, why shouldn't I?"
d. "Let's be spiritually whole when we come out of this."

One busload from Rupert came to work at the grade school.

24 June 1976 Thursday

Jack Taylor--Pocatello Office phone 233-0501
Home phone 232-5368

Harden Clark Home phone 233-0404
937 North Arthur Avenue, Pocatello 83201

Will take sewing machines for repair. Take them to Rexburg North Stake House--they will pick them up. Arrangements must be made to do this. They will take 20 machines at one time.

1. Do not oil machine.
2. Send soon as possible.
3. Send controls with them--remove from cabinet--if portable, send in case.
4. Tape name and ward on each machine.

Sister Verla Arnold, R. S. President, met with the Stake R. S. Presidency to discuss problems and evaluate progress of the clean-up. From Sister Katie Baird, Stake R. S. President:

Encourage visiting teachers to keep a personal contact with each sister.
Be mindful of our children at all times.
Remember the non-members among us, help and encourage them.
Work toward starting a regular Relief Society in October.
The flood is a spiritual experience--it may be another test to see if we can inherit the Celestial Kingdom. So have love in your hearts and be patient.
Don't let criticism creep into your lives which could destroy your characters.
Don't be critical of those who were not affected by the flood--they are

suffering, too, in another way.

We are working under the motto:
"Lets bring chaos into order the Priesthood way."

There were some humorous incidents connected with flood. One such instance was that after returning to her home from Utah, a widow, Evelyn Meyers found a bottle containing a set of false teeth under her bed. She was very indignant when Shirley Rice ribbed her about having an admirer we didn't know about.

There were also many spiritual and faith-promoting experiences. Everyone's story of the flood was very interesting, and many have been collected and will be printed into a booklet form sometime this winter. A copy can be attached to this log. It was most interesting to find out what everyone was doing at one given time. Sister Leah Belle Hawkes was assigned to collect and type up the flood stories and get them to sister Janet Thomas in Idaho Falls. The General Relief Society Board wants the stories for future disasters and as a human interest and fiath promoting source for the whole church. A copy is made for the Stake, too.

Dipping into all the muddy ruins, you'll still find folks with humor

Take billions of tons of water, a big flood mess, and people with a sense of humor, and next to devastation, you can find humor.

The caprices of Teton Dam floodwater created some situations that are downright funny, and lots of local people are cracking jokes in the midst of the mud, to keep their spirits up.

For instance, the flood set a different type of meal for Mr. and Mrs. John L. Clarke of Rexburg. They returned home to find a bale of hay and a gallon of orange juice concentrate powder on their table, and plenty of water to mix it with, says Peggy Stevenson of Rexburg.

And in a small town downriver, on the Snake, the mayor got perturbed at citizens. It seems they insisted on evacuating before he gave the order, one of the townspeople says. So, to show them that they had moved too soon, he stayed home — and soon found himself wading out the door.

Larry Bates, of Plano, climbed to the roof of his barn near Beaver Dick State Park to watch the flood. He saw an Angus bull coming downriver, and as it disappeared under the bridge, he thought it was a goner. When it came up on the other side, it struggled to land. The first moving creatures it saw were two men, and he saw red. He ran straight for them, top speed, and laid them low, then looked back over his shoulder as if to say, "Just try that again." He must have figured they were responsible for the whole thing.

Children see the flood with different eyes. A 2-year-old from St. Anthony says the "River blew up."

Lilie Anderson of Rexburg was in Portland, Ore., at the time of the flood. Her four-year-old granddaughter, Marie Anderson of Sugar City, gave her this report on her house: "Your house is standing, and not standing, and its neck is bended."

Marie was also worried when she saw that the flood had pushed her Aunt Stephanie Anderson's car out of the garage. "She was always so careful to shut that garage door — and now look what it did to the handle!" she said.

However, Stephanie had been gratified to discover the kindness of one insurance company. A freezer had rammed into her car in the garage, and the insurance people reported that she could, indeed, get collision insurance on a freezer.

Radios have been a vital source of public information during the disaster period. Before the flood, a Rexburg announcer said. "Any of you folks who would like to come help sandbag downtown Rexburg, feel welcome." Then his voice altered as he said, "At least I hope they're sandbagging out there." Shortly thereafter, his station went off the air.

An announcer for KID radio in Idaho Falls said authoritatively, "We are now flying over the Rexburg airport. The flood has completely inundated it." And then wistfully, "And my car that's parked there, too."

As flood waters abated and disaster efforts increased, St. Anthony station KIGO was turned into a civil defense station. One disc jockey, who had been on the job for many hours, said tiredly, "The time is now 24 hours past 6 p.m."

(If you have any "flood funnies," please bring them to the Rexburg Standard and Journal office. As well as covering the graver aspects of the flood, we'd like to give complete coverage to the ligher side.)

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Dipping into all the muddy ruins, you'll still find folks with humor

The billions of tons of water, a bigger flood than people with a sense of humor, and not to the million, you can find humor.

The capricos of Fate Dam Goodness created some amusing that are downright funny, and lots of local people are creating jokes in the midst of the mud, to keep their spirits up.

For instance, the flood set a difficult type of meal for Mr. and Mrs. John L. Clark of Rexburg. They managed some to find a bale of hay and a gallon of orange juice concentrate powder on their table, and plenty of water to mix it with, says Betty Swanson of Rexburg.

And in a small town downtown, on the Sunset, the mayor got pestered at city meeting. It seems they decided on a meeting before he gave the order, one of the councilmen says. So, to show them that they had moved too soon, he stayed home — and soon found himself wading out the door.

Larry Bass, of Ucon, climbed to the roof with their son Steve Oak Bass and his wife and the flood. He saw an Angus bull floating downstream, and as it drifted toward under the bridge, he thought it was a moose. When a crane up on the other side, a stranger yelled to him. The fun everybody is now two men, and he only yell. He ran inside the house, up stairs, and told them he. Then looked back over his shoulder to tell us, "Yes, by dam again." Mr. Bass said the day were responsible for the whole flood.

Children are the flood's victims, different ages. A 2-year-old from St. Anthony says the "River blew up."

Little Anderson of Rexburg was in fourth, Dee, at the time of the flood. Her four-year-old grandchildren, Diane Anderson of Sugar City, were the most on the house. "Your house is floating and not standing, and it looks it looked."

Diane was also worried when she saw the flood had washed her Aunt Evangeline Anderson's car out of the garage. "She was always so careful to put that garage door — and now look what it did to the house!" she said.

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company. A friend has received [illegible] on the garage, and the [illegible] phone reported that the roof, [illegible] collision insurance on a friend.

Rodeos have been a vital part of life in Madison during the 6 short years [illegible] before the flood. A traveling amusement said, "Any of you folks who would like to come help unloading downtown [illegible] boys, feel welcome." Then his voice [illegible] turned as he said, "All been I been day [illegible] unloading and there, [illegible] Dandy Dance [illegible] ice, his station wagon will fill up.

An announcer for KIDO radio in Idaho Falls said sarcastically, "We are now flying over the Rexburg airport. The flood has completely inundated it." And then seriously, "And my car couldn't [illegible] pulled them, too."

As flood waters abated and damage efforts increased, St. Anthony station KIDO was moved into a civil defense station. One disc jockey, who had been on the job for many hours, said smoothly, "The time is now 24 hours past 5 p.m."

If you have any "flood humor," please bring them to the Rexburg Standard and Journal office. As well as covering the garage aspects of the flood, we'd like to give complete coverage to the lighter side.)

25 June 1976 Friday

A strong wind blew all day making it almost impossible to work.

All members experience days of discouragement and depression. So far they are able to pick themselves up and continue on.

Our volunteer help came today from Montpelier--two busloads.

Reminded to report to Sister Rice where you want your trailer site set up.

Saturday electricians will be available.

There won't be a meeting Saturday and lunches served at noon only.

There will be a Tri-Stake Dance at Ricks College 8:30--WhiteWater Orchestra.

A fellow from Sugar who'd brag,
Has a tongue which no longer he'll wag;
While his cow with her cud
Disappeared in the flood,
He sat there just holdin' the bag.

Compliments of Verge Young

The first trailer from HUD was moved on Craig Morgan's land; later in the day the second one was moved on Gerald Jeppson's property. Neither ever moved in.

26 June 1976 Saturday

Three weeks have gone by since the flood. Couldn't begin to guess the hours of labor that have gone into our clean-up program. With all obeying the Priesthood Authority, we have been able to accomplish a great deal.

These have been weeks of hardship and adversity, but all seem to be rising above the hardships and heartaches. The great commandment of "Love thy Neighbor as Thyself" has surely been learned during these weeks.

We requested six electricians to help us. Bishop Dalling was overwhelmed when 236 licensed electricians came to help. They went into homes and checked out the wiring also went into the schools.

People have been very generous and concerned about us. Several instances are as follows:

The Don Birds made friends with a young Baptist couple in Texas while there studying a few years ago. Immediately after the flood they received a $1,000 check from this coupld. They felt they couldn't take that much from the couple, who they felt could not afford to give that much, and so wrote back and told them they couldn't accept the cash, but had the check stamped "non-negotiable" and framed it to put on their wall. They called them and told them their plans and expressed their gratitude.

President Songeregger received a $5,000 check from his brother and after long consideration called him and told him they would accept it, but only as a loan, and would keep it in a special fund.

Brother Jim Thomas received several hundred dollars from brothers he ordinarily never hears from. He debated about accepting the money since relationships have not been very intimate for a long time. It is a hard thing for us to accept graciously when it is our turn.

A young lady, Marilyn Duncan, a girlfriend of the late Raymond D. Hawkes, from Provo, upon hearing of the diaaster went on a drive in her branch and organized several others to help her, and received many nice things she sent up to the Hawkes family. A few weeks later, she and a young man started a larger drive for all the people of our stakes. This lasted a week and he had a red, white, and blue bus which they parked at supermarkets and various places with a big sign on them "Fill it up for the Flood Victims". By the 4th of July they had a busfull of food and clothing, which they took to the Manwaring Center.

27 June 1976 Sunday

All met today for Sacrament Service in College Field House at 3:00 p.m.

Brother Max Palmer conducted the meeting. Bishop Dalling gave instructions and remarks. Up to this date the Ammon Stake had donated 25,000 hours of service and labor to our clean-up program. This does not include the hours of laundry service rendered in washing our clothing.

Brother Fritz Powell from Newdale Ward was our special speaker today. His talk was up-lifting and gave us courage to continue on. He has helped us in so many ways during our clean-up.

Prayers were offered by Milton Romrell and President Marion Forsyth.

Before Sacrament meeting, Bishop Dalling called all the Priesthood Leaders and Auxiliary Presidencies together to work out a ward schedule to follow during the summer months.

12:45 Sunday School and Primary Prayer meeting
1:00 Sunday School
2:10 Sacrament Meeting
3:15 Relief Society and Priesthood
3:15 Primary age
8:00 Tuesday APA

The Ward Party will be at Ammon 5th Ward July 17, Saturday at 6:30.

Ward membership lists were made by Brother Dewey Furness and given to all presidencies.

Sister Shirley Rice gave an account of where each family is living now and where they plan to be for the future.

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27 June 1976 Sunday

All met today for Sacrament Service in College Field House at 2:00 p.m.

Brother Max Palmer conducted the meeting. Sister Dalline gave instructions and remarks. Up to this date the Lemon Stake had donated 23,000 hours of service and labor to our clean-up program. This does not include the hours of laundry service rendered in washing our clothing.

Brother Felix Powell from Newdale Ward was our special speaker today. His talk was uplifting and gave us courage to continue on. He has helped us in so many ways during our clean-up.

Prayers were offered by Milton Worrell and President Marion Forsyth.

Before Sacrament meeting, Bishop Dalline called all the Priesthood leaders and Auxiliary Presidencies together to work out a ward schedule to follow during the summer months.

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28 June 1976 Monday

Volunteers came today from Richmond, Utah. Two busloads and 1 bus from Minidoka County.

We should arrange for contractors to give estimates (2 estimates preferred).

If home is to be torn down, take pictures, measure outside dimensions to have record of square footage.

Home owners must sign a disclaimer prior to demolition of home.

Must file a claim to get government settlement.

President Sonderegger told the Relief Society Presidency recentlythe following:

We should establish independence as soon as possible. If we accept money from the Red Cross we should deduct it in our settlement. We can pay back the Red Cross in the years to come if we accept help. We can be extra generous in future donations.

Beware of Food Stamps. It is the most abused government program.

We can feel comfortable on a loan basis, but not accept $5,000 as a gift. (Referring to his brother wanting to give him this money personally.)

The Federal Disaster Administration has a separate fund for clean up besides the $200,000,000 we are getting.

Form 95 is not valid as it calls for lawyers. It should be between the owner of the property and the government, no lawyers.

There were 886 families out of 1270 in our stake hit by the flood.

He asked us to try to relate to the sisters. Tell them if they start saying , "Supposing this happens, etc." to stick with the facts and try to work with what the bishop says until he comes back and says something different. Try to calm them from worry. Just take a step at a time.

What does the church advise about loans? If you are farming, the FHA has the lowest rate of interest. Go ahead and make application for a loan but you don't necessarily have to use it. But if you take it out you must be prepared to bail yourselves out if the government DOESN'T come through.

He told us that we must be sure the non-members are not left out of any help we have for them. He also announced that there would be cherries to be given away. These were distributed among those living in Rexburg in the dorms and apartments. Cherries in Utah can be picked free if our people want to work out a way to get down there. Maybe it would be a good diversion while we are waiting for our trailers.

28 June 1976 Monday

Volunteers came today from Richmond, Utah. Two business and 1 bus from Mineboka County.

We should arrange for contractors to give estimates (5 estimates preferred).

If home is to be torn down, take pictures, measure outside dimensions to have record of square footage.

Home owners must sign a disclaimer prior to demolition of home.

Must file a claim to get government settlement.

President Sonderegger told the Relief Society Presidency recently the following:

We should establish independence as soon as possible. If we accept money from the Red Cross we should deduct it in our settlement. We can pay back the Red Cross in the years to come if we accept help. We can be extra generous in future donations.

Beware of Food Stamps. It is the most abused government program.

We can feel comfortable on a loan basis, but not accept $5,000 as a gift. (Referring to his brother wanting to give him this money personally.)

The Federal Disaster Administration has a separate fund for clean up besides the $200,000,000 we are getting.

Form 95 is not valid as it calls for lawyers. It should be between the owner of the property and the government, no lawyers.

There were 886 families out of 1500 in our stake hit by the flood.

He asked us to try to relate to the sisters. Tell them if they start saying , "Suppose this happens, etc." to stick with the facts and try to work with what the bishop says until he comes back and says something different. Try to calm them from worry. Just take a step at a time.

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He told us that we must be sure the non-members are not left out of any help we have for them. He also announced that there would be charities to be given away. These were distributed among those living in Jackson in the dorms and apartments. Charities in Utah can be picked free if our people want to work out a way to get down there. Maybe it would be a good diversion while we are waiting for our trailers.

Sister Katie Baird, Stake R. S. President, said the presidencies should present their needs and plans in a ward welfare meeting. That when the sisters get settled in their trailers the presidencies should take time to visit each home and see how they are doing.

After they get in their trailers and have their regular welfare they should not be using food stamps.

Some of the sisters of our ward helped at the cafeteria in the Manwaring Center and it made them feel like they were helping to pay for the meals their families had received.

She said for us to encourage our sisters in the ward who are visiting teachers to make personal contact with their district, even a letter.

29 June 1976 Tuesday

We had three bus loads from Weber county--the North Ogden area.

There will be a special meeting Wednesday 6:00 p.m. in the gym for both Sugar Wards to hear the officials from the Bureau of Reclamation.

We received word today of the death of Sister Pearl Hamilton, now living in Logan, a long time ago resident of Sugar City. Graveside service will be in Sugar Cemetery Thursday 5:00 p.m. Pearl was the wife of the late Charles Hamilton, former bishop of Sugar Ward.

Bishop's storehouse will be closed Sunday and Monday, July 4th and 5th.

30 June 1976 Wednesday

Both wards met today with the Bureau of Reclamation. The information was encouraging. A Mr. Erickson was in charge of the discussion.

While speaking about the demolition of buildings they stated that we don't have to wait for the Bureau to come and look before moving off debris and getting rid of old buildings. If the county engineer certifies the buildings are not salvageable, the bureau would respect and abide by that decision. Someone in an official capacity to say about the suitablity of reconditioning. Salvage will have to be accounted for in regulation of building.

If you have a salvageable home and want to repair it, until the regul lations have been made official we don't have an official answer yet but expect it to be for you to go ahead and put the building back in shape and then put in a claim.

The question was asked: "What about washers, frig's, etc.?" It would be covered by the bill also. Take care of any salvage available. The building should have repairs to make it as serviceable as the day the flood came.

We have two years in which to file our claim. The county men can make

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certification of damage to the goods.

If the items have already disappeared the bureau will try to be as equitable as possible. We should itemize to the best of our ability and get someone to verify the item was here.

To demolish buildings the Soil Conservation Service in the rural areas and the Corps of Engineers in the urban area. (I think it was all the Corps of Engineers. The Soil Conservation Service have worked with us to build back and clean up the land.)

You must sign a permit for someone to come on. The Federal Disaster Administration Centers are open for distribution of claims and material for you. This will be in the Old Gym building at Ricks next to the Spori Building.

In Rural Areas the Farmer's Home Administration will verify the losses for the farm properties. The check is available within 24 hours of verification.

The question was asked: "If we get financial help ahead will it affect our final claim in anyway?" The answer was "No"It will be taken into account.

Don't stockpile junk to verify losses. The Department of Interior must come out and verify losses, then you can demolish it.

President Sonderegger was present and said:

"The Lord is directing this, especially your honor and your integrity. The government officials are here to help us. Take time and plan a little bit. The decisions you make are going to have to be lived with for a long time. We want to feel alright about the outcome. The government is placing you on the honor system. They aren't doubting it at all. Make sure your conscience is clear."

1 July 1976 Thursday

There will not be a Friday night meeting and no evening meal.

Our Ward is planning to go ahead with our Girls Camp as scheduled the second week in August.

Burggraf and SCS will prepare trailer sites. SCS must have triplicate copy in order to remove the debris.

President Sonderegger sent word, "From every indication, the Government is planning replacement, not market value compensation."

Flood victims will be given a packet to fill out by ward and clock. This will eliminate long lines. The settlement will NOT be a first come first served basis. All will be treated equally.

If you want to use your own furniture in the trailer, you must be responsible to store and return the trailer furniture.

certification of damage to the goods.

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If you want to see your own furniture in the trailer, you must be responsible to store and secure the trailer furniture.

FDHA and FHA will come and help determine losses. Settlement will be cash. There will be a two-year period from June 5, 1976 to June 5, 1978 to complete filing claims. Signed statements by neighbors will be valid evidence of losses.

There will be 65 trailers set on the south side of main street and on the north side .

We must account for slavage value.

Keep a copy of repair bills as repairs are made prior to settlement.

2 July 1976 Friday

Estimate your work for next Tuesday and sign today for it.

No meeting or evening meal tonight.

There was one busloade from Ogden. These were Jewish people who volunteered one vacation day to help the flood victims. They were once in an ice flood in Michigan and said they would help anyone who had a flood. They were sent to Meyers ' Feed Lot. They were good workers.

3 July 1976 Saturday

There was no labor help today. The Command Post was closed.

The corner chosen for the trailer sites on the North side of main street. It was a busy place today. Many pieces of large equipment, huge sewer and water pipes and crews of men were everywhere. This new trailer village is going to give our town a new look. Forsgren and Perkins' engineers are on the job there, too. Brian Hawkes from our ward has been helping them and did some of the inspecting.

4 July 1976 Sunday

Fast and testimony meeting today. It was an outstanding spiritual experience to listen to testimony-bearing on this Bi-Centennial Day. With the experiences we've all had, it had special meaning to hold our first fast and testimony meeting since the flood. The testimonies were special. Sister Mary Meyers' testimony of her decision to stay in the community and restore her losses instead of give up (as was her first inclination) and move out to Salt Lake City where she could devote herself to genealogical research).

Everyone is still enjoying the good food at the Manwaring Center and it is a real help to be able to go over there and have it all prepared on Sundays. The sisters are surely appreciating the help and not taking it for granted.

By now most families are in the Targhee Chalet, or one of the other apartment units at Ricks. Most have eating facilities, and laundry facilities. Yet most still eat their meals at Manwaring Center at least once a day. Those still in the dorms without eating facilities take all their meals at the Manwaring. Many programs for swimming, dancing, and other summer activities are available to occupy the young.

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Dam compensation bill awaits Ford's signature

WASHINGTON — The Church-McClure Teton Dam Compensation Bill has received final congressional approval and is on its way to the White House for the president's signature.

The legislation crossed the last congressional hurdle when approved by the senate and house, says a news release from the offices of the senators.

In a joint statement, Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, and Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, said, "We now have the mechanism which guarantees continued full compensation for victims of the Teton disaster."

"The fact that this legislation has passed the Congress with only minor delays indicated the general opinion in the Congress that the federal government has an obligation to those who suffered such severe loss as a result of the Teton Dam disaster," Church said.

"I have been in contact with the White House, and I have been assured that we will have no problems in obtaining the president's signature on our bill," says McClure.

The bill provides the authority to continue full compensation to victims of the flood. It will allow the claims process which has already begun, to continue for two-year period and specifies under wha authority Congress can appropriat additional funds for compensation, say the news release.

The Church-McClure bill was introduced in the senate five days after the disaster. Hearings on the measure were held in the Senate Interior Committee, and full senate approval came within a few weeks. In the house, the bill was amended slightly in the judiciary committee before receiving final action Aug. 24. Due to changes in the bill, the senate was required to pass the measure again.

Rules and regulations governing claims procedures which are already in effect will conform almost exactly to the Church-McClure bill. This legislation will allow for continuation of compensation after the initial $200-million appropriation has been used, stated the news release.

Verifiers are good guys says flood claims chief

IDAHO FALLS — A Bureau of Reclamation official in charge of the Teton Dam flood claims program says some flood victims are misinterpreting the function of loss verifiers assigned to investigate claims.

Loyd Ericson, the Bureau's chief claims officer, said one of the main responsibilities of loss verifiers is to determine ownership of destroyed or damaged property for the protection of the claimant as well as the government.

"We don't want someone else reimbursed for a piece of floating property owned by another individual. Certainty of ownership prevents unfortunate mistakes and avoids disputes over who should be paid for it," Ericson said in a B. of R. news release.

He said in determining ownership, loss verifiers are required to ask victims for specific information and records.

"These questions shouldn't be interpreted to mean that the government is going to disallow the claim or that the investigator is doubting the claimant's honesty," Ericson said. "We simply want to determine whether the claim is valid and to make certain it is both fair to the victim and fair to the government."

Regulations for the claims program do not require that ownership of everything destroyed or damaged by the flood be documented, he said in the release.

Where records are available, they help speed claims processing. However, on small personal items, claims officers will accept whatever is reasonable.

In many cases, a simple statement by a disinterested person attesting to the possession and damage to the property will be accepted as sufficient proof, the news release noted.

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5 July 1976 Monday

Today was the Bi-Centennial Celebration. Rexburg rallied and had a parade, despite their handicaps. Sister Bonnie Curtis of our ward was in charge of the parade entries.

Rhea Thomas was in charge of a float for our ward, but under the circumstances was advised to not pursue it. Sister Janet Hibbert felt it was such an opportunity we should not passit up without doing something, so we had a float thanking Americans everywhere for their help. Verl Bird from Sugar Ward rode on a slippery slide (as he did throughout the flood) and received a lot of comment.

It was a different kind of celebration and feeling as one month ago today disaster struck our community and people had been so busy digging out that a Bi-Centennial seemed second-place in importance in their minds until it was actually upon us. Many were out of town enjoying the forests and trying to get away from the steady recovery work and forgetting it for one day. However, we are probably more thankful than any one else for the blessings of this day and the opportunity to go on living in this choice land, and that our lives have been spared.

A mortician in St. Anthony (where they took care of all deaths during the flood) said that out of the eleven persons killed in the flood, only one was a member of the Latter Day Saint Church. That was David Benson fo Teton City who was in a small boat fishing just below the dam. His companion Griggs was saved because he was cast up in a tree downstream even tho badly hurt, but Benson's body was found later in Hibbard. Later on, an official who knows a lot about disasters said that according to other disasters, that one of this size and violence should have caused 5300 deaths. He was astounded that there was such a small loss of life. This shows us our Father in Heaven was mindful of us. If it had happened in the night the death toll would have been tremendous. The break would not have been noticed probably at all until too late to warn anyone, and at night many could not have been reached by telephone or would not have heard the phone or known where to flee. Our lives were spared. Also, the people heeded the warning and did what they were told, as pointed out later.

6 July 1976 Tuesday

Volunteer workers came from Salt Lake today. They paid $5.00 per person to charter the bus to come up to work. 160 people were fed at the noon meal and 120 at night. A ward meeting was held. Aaronic Priesthood Youth had bowling and refreshments. Opening exercises were at 6:45 p.m.

7 July 1976 Wednesday

One bus load of workers came from Salt Lake, the Rose Park Area.

At a meeting at 12:30 p.m. at the gym, Gen. Brooks presented Mayor Moon with a check from the government for $204,000 for a new water system.

A few workers from Sheridan, Wyoming stayed over to help.

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One bus load of workers came from Salt Lake, the Rose Park Area.

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A few workers from Sheridan, Wyoming stayed over to help.

8 July Thursday 1976

There were two busloads from Rose Park Stake in Salt Lake. We served 140 people at noon and 110 at night. There was a ward meeting held. 6:15 p.m.

The B O R can't take any applications for claims until the President signs the bill which is on his desk at the present time.

9 July 1976 Friday

Two busloads of volunteers arrived from Cannon Stake in Salt Lake.

A portion of the State Security left the area but we will not be left without security as a substantial force of State Police will remain in the area. Curfew will remain at 10:30 p.m. until further notice.

Dry cleaning is being taken care of by Iona and Ammon stakes at no expense to us. This is a wonderful service and must be quite an expense to them along with all the other things they have done for us. They are still alternating in serving the lunches everyday which are sent over hot from the Manwaring Center kitchen and furnished by the Church Welfare Program. At first the Red Cross provided the sandwiches which were served. Otherwise the food served in the gym at Sugar all came from our Welfare Storehouse. Outside the gym the Salvation Army Trailer provided soup and desserts.

10 July Saturday 1976

One busload from Billings Stake, Montana arrived, and two vans with 13 people from Sheridan, Wyoming (Billings Stake) came to help today. Some volunteers drove 183 miles to catch the Billings bus.
Five electricians from Bear Lake came.

We served lunch to 250 people.

Harold Harris is approved as an appraiser for the purpose of obtaining Small Business Loans. He is charging a $25.00 fee. If you want him to appraise your property you must sign up at the City Hall. First you must have a damage assessment sheet from Clayter Forsgren before signing up. This will be done each Saturday until it is finished.

11 July 1976 Sunday

The Post is closed on all Sundays. Our meeting schedule was:

2:00 p.m. Sunday School and Primary Prayer Meetings
2:15 p.m. Sunday School
3:30 p.m. Sacrament Meeting
4:15 p.m. Relief Society, Priesthood, and Primary for 30 minutes.

12 July 1976 Monday

No help arrived today. The Command Post will be open six days this week. Meals will be served at noon but no night meal.

8 July Thursday 1976

There were two busloads from Rose Park Stake in Salt Lake. We served 180 people at noon and 120 at night. There was a ward meeting held. 5:15 p.m.

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13 July 1976 Tuesday

Volunteers arrived in three buses from Salt Lake area. They were from University Stake, Hillside Stake, and Little Cottonwood Stake. No night meeting at the gym. APYW Activity Night Service Project cleaning up campus. Watermelon refreshments were served by the officers following the cleanup.

Recently President Sonderegger said that he is concerned that we are the recipients of a lot of doles now and that they should be phased out. Since the government will assum 100% of our losses, we should start giving instead of receiving. All of this has been geared to get us back to normal.

" If there is a need, no one should be denied. We should be liberal in our fast offering contributions.

"The meals will continue at noon at Sugar, but night meal will be served only on Thursday nite when we hold our meeting. We will serve the food ourselves and take care of the garbage, loading truck, etc. Some people living in apartments have limited facilities for cooking, but these meals will stop abruptly when the people get in their trailers.

"If you get something from the Welfare, don't claim this item again to the Federal Government. Don't "Double Claim". Live with your conscience. Be careful that you don't give people a guilty conscience for doing what we have told them to do three weeks ago."

14 July 1976 Wednesday

Two buses from Big Cottonwood Stake and one bus from Sandy East Stake of the Salt Lake Area came today to help.

The Bureau of Reclamation Packets are being given out at the Hart Building between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Names starting with letters from A to B will be given out today.

15 July 1976 Thursday

One bus from Foothill Stake of Salt Lake Area came today.

There was a night meeting and supper at the gym , the only night in the week. Loans from the SBA and FHA must be completed by August 5 and 6 respectively. There seems to be an advantage in getting a loan with the SBA. The names from S-Z will be given out packets from the Bureau today.

16 July 1976 Friday

Three buses came from Ensign Region, University Stake, Immigration Stake, of the Salt Lake Area.

Today is the last day there will be a pickup of our laundry and cleaning to be taken to Iona and Ammon Stakes..

The names C-G for B O R packets will be given out today.

15 July 1976 Tuesday

Volunteers arrived in three buses from Salt Lake area. They were from University State, Hillside State, and Little Cottonwood State. No night meeting at the Ym. ADIV Activity Night Service Project cleaning up campus, recreation refreshments were served by the officers following the cleanup.

Security President Condoraggor said that he is concerned that we are the recipients of a lot of ideas now and that they should be phased out. Since the government will assume 100% of our losses, we should start living instead of reacting. All of this has been geared to get us back to normal.

" If there is a need, no one should be denied. We should be liberal in our fast offering contributions.

"The meals will continue at noon at Sugar, but night meal will be served only on Thursday nite when we hold our meeting. We will serve the food cafeteria and take care of the garbage, loading truck, etc. Some people living in apartments have limited facilities for cooking, but these meals will stop abruptly when the people get to their trailers.

"If you get something from the welfare, don't claim this item again to the Federal Government. Don't "Double Claim". Live with your conscience. Be careful that you don't give people a guilty conscience for doing what we have told them to do three weeks ago."

16 July 1976 Wednesday

Two buses from Big Cottonwood State and one bus from Sandy Sunset State of the Salt Lake Area came today to help.

The Bureau of Restoration Products are being given out at the Bert Building between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Names starting with letters from A to B will be given out today.

15 July 1976 Thursday

One bus from Foothill State of Salt Lake Area came today.

There was a night meeting and supper at the Ym , the only night in the week. Loans from the SBA and FHA must be completed by August 3 and 6 respectively. There seems to be an advantage in getting a loan with the SBA. The names from S-Z will be given out packets from the Bureau today.

16 July 1976 Friday

Three buses came from Sunset Region, University State, Immigration State of the Salt Lake Area.

Today is the last day there will be a pickup of our laundry and cleaning to be taken to Iona and Ammon Stakes.

The names O-G for E O R packets will be given out today.

A big job for a big chopper

If you lost your car or truck in the Teton Dam flood and haven't got around to picking it up yet, this giant army helicopter might have beat you to the punch. The big chopper has been in the flood area for a couple of weeks now, collecting abandoned flood vehicles and depositing them in a field north of Rexburg. The Soil Conservation Service [SCS] brought the helicopter into the flood area after it was assigned to do so by the Federal Disaster Assistance Aministration [FDAA]. Some 35 per cent of the total SCS work force in Idaho has been involved in debris clean-up since the Teton Dam collapsed June 5. Once the helicopter has deposited the damaged vehicles in a field behind CAL Ranch and Farm Supply in Rexburg, owners have six months to pick them up.

17 July 1976 Saturday

One bus from Holiday South Stake, Salt Lake Area.

Tonight there was an Open House for Elaine Barrus and DeWayne Wallace at Targhee Chalet from 7:30 to 9:30 and all our ward was invited.

The names O through R B O R packets given out today.

Tonight was the big ward party given to us by the Ammon 5th Ward. There were signs pointing the way to Ammon City Park for us to follow. The swimming pool had been open since 4:30 for anyone wanting to swim. It was an overcast day and even seemed cooler and possible rain so swimming didn't look too inviting.

Dinner was served at 6:30. It was an open pit barbecue that had been prepared the day before and several stayed up all night tending it. There was a little time in which to greet ward members and have a nice visit with some we hadn't seen or had opportunity to talk with since the flood. Everyone was in good spirits and determined to relax and have a good mini-vacation.

We formed several lines to the roofed area where they were serving baked potatoes and sour cream, tossed salad, rolls, barbeque, punch, and ice cream. It was a most delicious meal and everyone found someone enjoyable to sit by.

After dinner there was a Variety Show and the Mistress of Ceremonies was Sister Burtenshaw and many very clever numbers were presented showing a lot of time and preparation. Mel Richardson of KIDTV fame is the bishop of the ward and we enjoyed his remarks. At the end of the evening some community singing was led by talented Leslie Wanless who played and sang at the same time. This was very enjoyable.

Our young people enjoyed meeting their young people and we took the opportunity to personally thank all we could.

18 July 1976 Sunday

We are on original schedule of Prayer Meeting 12;45, SS 1:00; Sacrament Meeting 2:10; Primary, Priesthood, and R. S. at 3:15 p.m.

At the Relief Society meeting the sisters were asked to write their own personal flood story for the General Board, Stake, and for our ward. Inspirational talks were given, especially by Sister Grace Forsyth urging them to do this important thing of writing down their feelings and experiences to be preserved.

Sister Verla Moss is able to be to our meetings now. Since her surgery just before the flood in Idaho Falls, she had to stay in Idaho Falls, but is now back with her family and able to attend meetings on her crutches.

17 July 1976 Saturday

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Sister Verla Hora is able to be to our meetings now. Since her surgery just before the flood in Idaho Falls, she had to stay in Idaho Falls, but is now back with her family and able to attend meetings or her convenience.

19 July 1976 Monday

One bus from Star Valley came to help.

The names of persons beginning with H through J will receive packets today from the B O R.

There is a list of the registered contractors at the Command Post, published by the Civil Defense. The Command Post will be open all this week except Saturday. Meals will be served at noon Monday through Friday. The evening meal will be served on Wednesday and Wednesday night we will hold a meeting. It is our intent to keep the Command Post open and serve the noon meal until our families are settled in their trailers. There will be volunteer workers Monday through Thursday this week.

Driver's Education begins at noon today at 12:00 at the High School.

20 July 1976 Tuesday

One bus from Logan East and Logan Stake and a half bus from Jerome Stake. 30 people from Rupert worked at the Church house today.

Names K through N today for B O R packets.

Camp Clinic tonight from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. behind the Sugar Church. Inspirator and Adventurer girls should bring their compass. Camp is important and should not be forgotten. Girls should turn in their list of camping items that they cannot find to Laurie Luke.

Complimentary tickets to "Threads of Glory" in the Civic Auditorium in Idaho Falls were available for tonight to flood victims.

21 July 1976 Wednesday

Two busloads from Mt. Logan Stake arrived today.

The evening meal was served in the gym and a meeting held. The flood stories were due tonight to be picked up by Leah Belle Hawkes. Not many turned theirs in.

Those interested in Soil Reclamation Meeting at the Little Theater at the Manwaring Center attended at 7:30 p.m.

22 July 1976 Thursday

26 people came from Declo.

23 July 1976 Friday

One bus from Burley Stake today.

The first person from our ward moved into their trailer at the trailer park. It was the Frank Douglass family.

24 July 1976 Saturday

The Post was closed today for the celebration. The annual Pioneer Day Parade was held in St. Anthony. Sugar was represented by the SSHS Cheer leaders on a float. We gladly cheered them and tears came in our eyes thinking of the spirit of our small community in its struggle to survive.

19 July 1976 Monday

One bus from Star Valley came to help.

The names of persons beginning with E through G will receive packets today from the E O R.

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July 24, 1976

TO: All the wonderful people of the Rexburg Idaho North Stake
FROM: Your Stake Presidency

We want you to know how proud we are of each of you and your families. [illegible] are very pleased with all the excellent reports we hear and see of [illegible]ur great efforts and good works to resolve the many problems which have [illegible]fronted us since June 5th. You are truly worthy of your Great Pioneer [illegible]itage. Noble ancestors who came in many ways and under many difficult [illegible]rcumstances to the Salt Lake Valley 129 years ago are equally proud of [illegible]. Your struggles, heartaches and sacrifices are not in vain and our [illegible]ther-in-Heaven is mindful of your needs and surely knows your hearts. [illegible] we continue on in the days ahead and maintain the fine attitude of [illegible] past seven weeks, we will have stronger testimonies and be a stronger [illegible] better people. We must be careful not to judge others as we file our [illegible]laims and rebuild and refine our homes. The scriptures can surely be [illegible]plied and become more meaningful to each of us at this critical time. [illegible] are all having experiences in judging ourselves as we prepare the [illegible]tails and inventory of our claims. The scriptures tell us that we will [illegible]dge ourselves in the final judgement. We are surely getting some first-[illegible] experiences in this great exercise. We are told by the BOR that to [illegible] less than 1% of the people have filed questionable claims. This [illegible]ly speaks well of your honesty and integrity and we commend you for it. [illegible] pray that everyone will be able to answer conciance clear, [illegible] this great chapter in our lives is concluded. We know you have, and [illegible] struggling with your claims and that your hearts and tears on how to [illegible]ve many items of your possessions. We are continually instructed that [illegible] conditions of our claims are based on replacement costs for the [illegible]ality of belongings that we had. This is where our judgement is [illegible] because each of us knows and the Lord knows what we had. As [illegible] Stake Presidency, we have [illegible] confidence in your honesty and integrity. [illegible] you will be paid and are satisfied in the property decisions that [illegible] make.

During the past weeks of [illegible] and our flood conditions we have [illegible]ed you to use the welfare program for food and clothing and to [illegible] your money for other necessities. Now that the government process [illegible] replacement of our properties is in progress we feel that it is time [illegible] us to evaluate our conditions and wherever possible we ought to again [illegible] independent and self sufficient using through the same methods we used [illegible] Heaven know best what your needs are [illegible] be placed under unsolvable [illegible] purpose of the welfare Plan is to "Help people to help [illegible]." We've received assistance in many ways and our blessings [illegible] know and we have surely been helped.

[illegible] of land levelling and their many ideas for water [illegible] the S. C. S. and A. S. C. S. are the government agencies [illegible] the extent and amount of approved [illegible]

[illegible]

5. Beware of any persons, lawyers or others who ask for the right to exercise the power of attorney in filing your claims. Some of these are problems and agreements that are not legitimate. File your own claims and if you have questions go to your bishop.

6. Mr. Frank Blazick, Claims Officer for Fremont and Madison Counties, stated, July 23rd, that "As claims begin to come in, it has become apparent that the more documentation of loss which a claimant can supply, the faster the claim can be processed and paid." He said, "It is very helpful if the claimant's working papers, including those suggested in the claims packet become a part of the claimant's official file. This will give our loss verifiers a chance to become familiar with the loss even before he visits the damaged home, farm or business."

7. As an indication of progress in claims settlement we would say it is a loss on whether you file with S.B.A. and the B.O.R. You may want to do both and go directly to the B.O.R. For forward we are doing everything possible to get consideration from FEA who have the responsibility to aid you in rehabilitation of your losses. We hope you patience continues and that you get the help that is needed. Remember we are a "Government of the People" and better government begins with each of us. Our concern and conduct our attitude makes the difference.

8. Don't move too fast on your decisions of claim filing or have alternate in you are unsure. Remember you have two years to file your claims and the decisions must be lived with thereafter. However, if you feel comfortable with your decisions and plans then there shouldn't be any reason for delay or hesitate. A home is an investment and worthy of reasonable consideration.

9. We hope you all remember the spiritual events in this flood chapter of your lives and [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] chapter. Remember your [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] feelings:

1. The greatest joker you have heard.
2. The most unusual story you have ever listened to or read.
3. The spectacular spiritual experiences and miracles which have happened to you and supporting.

10. Again we congratulate you on the way you live and apply [illegible] principles. There are no greater people in the area of the [illegible] church. In the [illegible] Church.

[illegible] all you in your [illegible] and I desire to be [illegible] Mr. Kingston. We love and appreciate each one of you.

Very sincerely,

Your Stake President

HUD trailers aren't like home, but they'll do

By RAY NASH
Staff Writer

The dust is so thick some of the women say they have to clean twice a day. At night, it's noisy. There's not as much storage space as most people are accustomed to having, and the television reception isn't very good.

The government trailer park east of Madison High School, where more than 100 families left homeless by the Teton Dam flood will live for the next year or more, is not the kind of place that evokes pleasant memories.

As you drive into the park, the dust is the first thing you notice. It's everywhere when the wind blows. For some reason, it's worse on the south side of the park than it is on the north side.

Roads in the park are of dirt and gravel, and there's not much plant growth anywhere. It occurs to you as you drive up the main road to the trailer houses that sometime next spring, say about the middle of March, the park likely will become a giant sea of mud. There's talk about planting grass before winter, if some volunteer labor can be lined up in time.

This was the first time the reporter had seen the trailer park up close. There was little activity anywhere. Three children played in the dirt underneath one of the disaster trailers. A Housing and Urban Development (HUD) maintenance man was loading his pickup truck with some kind of wire. The wind stirred up some dust.

A week has passed since most of the flood victims moved out of other temporary quarters — college dorms, apartments, the basements of friends and neighbors — and into their temporary government trailers. The park is nearly three-fourths full. They've put mailboxes up, in long rows along the roads, and each trailer has a metal garbage can outside, tied to a metal fence post.

The park, of course, is nothing like the kind of refugee camps and shanty towns in far off lands that you see on the evening news on television. This refugee camp has about it that peculiar look only American know-how and ingenuity can produce. It looks orderly, under control, planned and by all means practical — in short, the product of reasonable men with degrees in engineering and community planning.

Near the middle of one of the rows of trailers, on the north side where the dust isn't so bad, a young woman sits on a flattened cardboard box in the shade of her temporary home. In one hand she holds a baby's bottle; in the other arm is the baby. Another child, 2 or maybe 3 years old, sits beside her, playing with a plastic dump truck.

"Hi," the reporter says, trying to hide a mild case of the jitters. "I'm from the Standard and Journal — you know, the local newspaper."

The woman shakes her head back and forth. "No. Not today, please," she says.

"I just wanted to talk to you about —"

"No," the woman repeats. "Not today." She looks down at her baby. She doesn't look back up.

A couple of rows down another woman sits on the wooden stairs leading to the front door of her trailer. She's watching her little boy, who's playing in the dirt. There's a smile on her face.

Her name is Carol Gardner, a

See Trailers aren't . . . Page 8

Continued from Page 1

young divorcee who lives in the government trailer with her 3-year-old boy. A resident of Rexburg for less than half a year, she had just rented a home on north 3rd West a week before the Teton Dam collapsed. The home was destroyed by the flood.

"Would you like to come inside?" she asks, after the obligatory introductions have been spoken.

"All right," the reporter says.

Inside, the trailer looks nearly new. It's much nicer than one would expect a disaster trailer to look like. The living room is quite roomy. The kitchen is small but looks convenient. A long hallway separates the living room from the two bedrooms at the rear of the trailer.

"It's fine," the young woman says when asked what she thinks of her temporary home. "I'm pleased with it."

In the past four months, she's moved five times. After the dam failed she lived in the nearby town of Rigby for a couple of months, until the trailer arrived. Before moving to Rexburg, she had lived in Ashton. She says she'll live in the trailer for a year or maybe longer if it doesn't cost too much to heat it this winter.

Until then, there are other problems to contend with. The ever-present dust, besides making it difficult to keep the trailer clean, aggravates her hay fever. And her little boy is only now beginning to adjust to his new surroundings after making so many moves in recent months.

Trailer life is nothing new for Jim Bissette and his family of three. They were living in a trailer on west 2nd North when the dam broke. Their HUD trailer is two feet wider and five feet shorter than the one the flood destroyed. That gives them a bit more room to move around in inside, but there isn't as much storage space.

"It's all right," Bissette said when asked what he thinks of his new home. "I wouldn't buy it off the trailer lot — let's put it like that."

Bisette, a burly, softspoken man who has lived in Rexburg all his life, says he'll consider the option to buy the trailer at the end of a year anyway, if the government will give him a good deal on it. With a little work the trailer can be turned into a home, he reasons.

He says he'd be more satisfied if they had let him have a three-bedroom trailer. He had asked HUD officials about the possibility of moving into one of the larger trailers, but they discouraged him from making the move because it would require too much paper work.

He had also asked if he could move the trailer to some private land he had a chance to buy. But they wouldn't let him do it.

"I'm tired of fighting them," Bissette said without bitterness.

He leaned against his pickup truck and talked about some of the experiences other flood victims have gone through. A friend of his from Burton was supposed to have his flood-damaged home repaired, but the HUD contractor did such a shoddy job on the house his wife refused to move back into it. So, they went out and bought a trailer of their own.

"Some of the contractors are okay," Bissette said. "There are just too many from outside in here, and there aren't that many honest people in the world . . . Everybody's here for the buck."

Another family he knows faces a different kind of problem. There are eight members of the family, and they all live in a three-bedroom trailer in the government trailer park. "There just isn't enough room for all of them," Bissette said.

Gradually, the conversation returned to his own trailer. He found some strange bugs inside, he says. He's never seen anything like them in this area before. And the television reception with an outdoor antenna is poor. He plans to hook up to the cable as soon as it's available.

Bissette says the trailer will be adequate. If he decides to buy it, he'll fix it up. He says it will need some storm windows before winter and he hopes HUD gets all the skirting done before the first snow flies.

"All in all, I think things will work out. I hope," he says.

Jeanette Sommer is even more optimistic. She, her husband, Jack, and their 18-month-old son were living in a home on west 1st North in Rexburg when the dam collapsed. They managed to save their clothes and dishes, a crib and a highchair, her sewing machine and her husband's rubber raft from the flood water.

"I think it's nice," she said when asked what she thinks about the trailer park. "It's dusty. If they would plant some grass it would be even better."

Asked if she is satisfied with the way HUD has treated her and her family, she had only words of praise for the government agency. "They've been generous — more than generous," she said. "They've bent over backwards to please."

Her trailer will have to be insulated before winter comes. Mrs. Sommer says she's confident HUD will complete its trailer winterization program on schedule, as promised.

Aside from the dust, her only complaint about the trailer is the lack of storage space.

"I really enjoy it," she said. "It has good furniture in it and it hasn't got too hot yet."

Does it seem like home? she was asked.

"Home is what you make it," she answered.

Like most of the residents of Sugar City, Dale Nichols had to move out of his home when the flood hit. He's still waiting for the contractor to make a decision whether the house can be salvaged or not.

"Everytime we go out there it's little worse," Nichols said, "It wasn too bad at first, but it looks wor every time I see it."

The home was located on the sou side of the devastated communi where some structures will salvaged. Nichols says if all goes we and they don't have to tear down th house, he and his family will mov back by December.

"I'd like to live right there [Sugar City] if I can. It's a good, qui town," he said.

Until they're able to return hom Nichols, his wife and their thre young daughters will live in th trailer park. Nichols' only complai is the noise. As late as midnight, h can hear the sound of motorcycle and a truck of some kind makes a tri through the park each night about 1 p.m.

His wife says she has to dust an scrub the floor twice a day becaus her 7-month-old daughter craw about the trailer.

"You can't be too fussy," say Nichols. "We're all going to have t live with a little inconvenience for while."

Home is where the heart is

Sugar City has taken on a new look since the Teton Dam collasped. Most of the homes in the small community north of Rexburg were destroyed by the flood, forcing residents to move into government trailers like these. There are two big trailer courts north of the city, where flood victims will live this fall and winter and maybe longer. The trailers, fully furnished and ready to hook up, were brought into the area by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from throughout the country where they were put into service in other disasters. Most residents of the flood-ravaged city are determined to rebuild their homes and stay in the community they love.

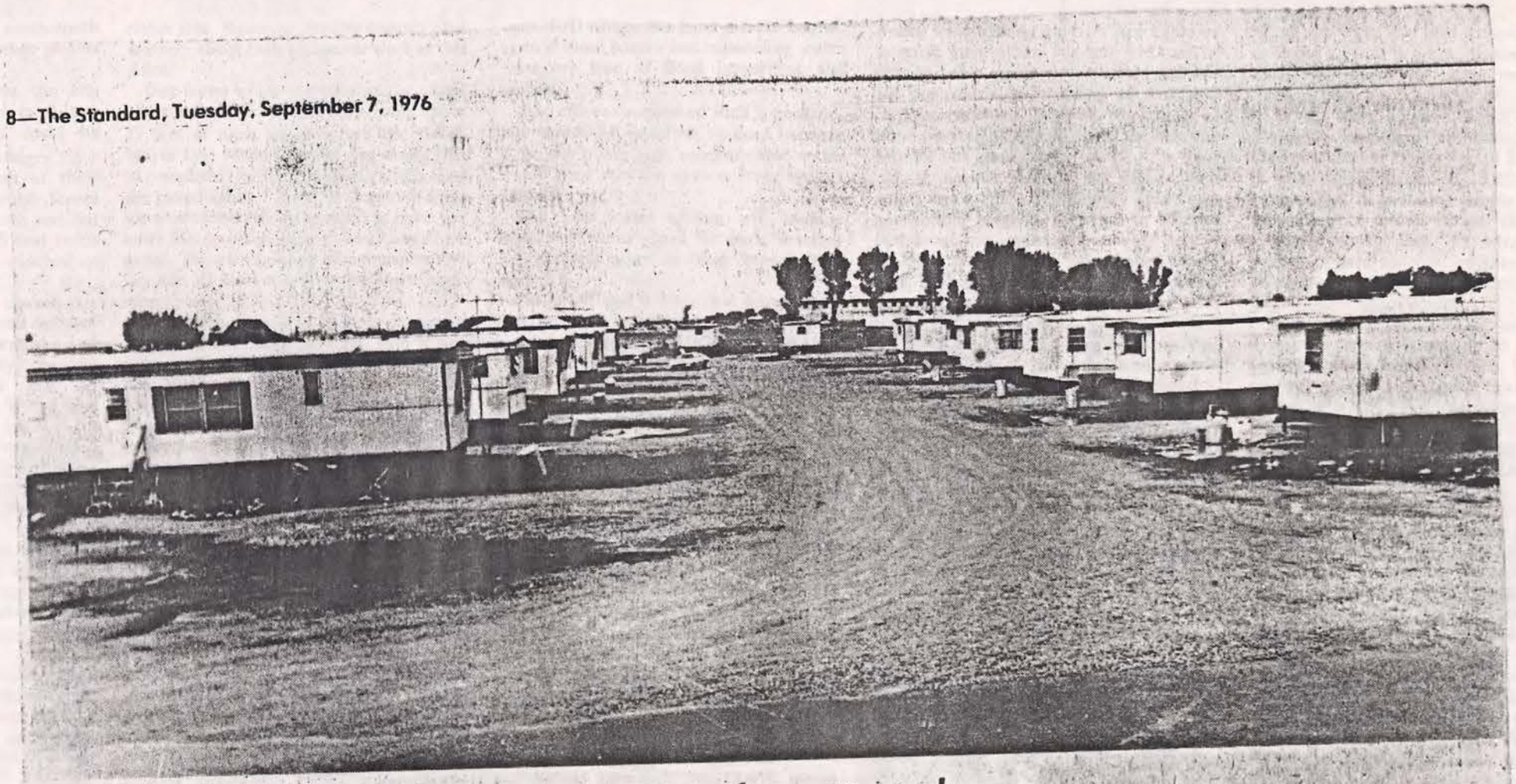
HUD pledges to winterize mobile homes

IDAHO FALLS — The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced that all HUD mobile homes in the disaster area will be thoroughly winterized prior to the onset of cold weather.

"A mobile home is winterized in order to ensure that the family will be as comfortable as possible during the cold winter months, and to do whatever possible to keep heating costs to a minimum," says Lynn Stowell, director of the HUD disaster field office in Idaho Falls, in a news release from his office.

The winterizing process includes preventive maintenance on the furance to make certain it is functional and sufficient, heat taping of water lines to prevent freezing, installation of insulated skirting and a complete check of hot water tanks, sewer lines, and electrical systems, the news release says.

"HUD is aware that there is concern among some families now occupying mobile homes. We assure all families that every mobile home in the area will be inspected, and necessary maintenance work will be completed, to ensure that the mobile home is suitable for the northern climate," Stowell said.



A new trailer city is born

When disaster strikes, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development (HUD) is ready. Within two months of the collapse of the Teton Dam, HUD moved hundreds of trailers like these into the flood area to provide temporary shelter for those left homeless by the flood. The trailers will probably take some gettin used to, but as one Sugar City resident put it: "It's better than [living in] a tent."

Sugar City people alter street size, building code

By DEBRA NELSON
Staff Writer

SUGAR CITY — Normally the Sugar City Council wouldn't be planning a new water system and street building program, a revamped building code and sewer system.

But normally, half the homes, roads and utility systems would be intact, untouched by the ravages of the Teton Dam flood. So since the flood did its damage, since many people want to start rebuilding, and since it's easier to improve city services now than it ever will, the council is spending long sessions ironing out details on the changes.

And they are asking residents to share their thoughts about several of the changes at a meeting Tuesday. Rondo Barrus, city clerk, says the time and place will be announced.

One of the major changes to be discussed will be changing the width of city streets to a uniform 60 feet in most places. Norman Gage, council member in charge of roads, says most east-west streets are 75 feet wide, most north-south routes are 80 feet and some other streets are 50 or 35 feet wide.

The council moved to have the city attorney draw up an ordinance to change the street width so that it could be discussed at the Tuesday meeting.

Streets which would be left at their present size would include Center Street (U.S. 20-191), 150 feet; 3rd South and 3rd North, 50 feet, and Maple, 35 feet (with the limitation that it must be widened to 50 feet as soon as possible.)

Over 20 people met with the council at a meeting Wednesday night. Items discussed included studies on central and geothermal heating for the city, changes in water and sewer lines and an explanation of the reason a bid for the new city water system hasn't been let.

Architects from the Idaho Energy Office will attend the Tuesday meeting and show residents ways to save energy as they plan and build homes, says Don Bird, councilman.

Darrell Moss, a Sugar City resident, said he and several others who lost homes in the flood have been wating for the council to decide what to do about roads and the building code before pouring foundations for new homes.

The road issue and the building code are tied together because the present code calls for homes to be built no less than 25 feet from the owner's property line on the side facing the street, Gage said. If width of roads was changed, it would alter the number of feet between the edge of the road and the property line, leaving a "no man's land in between. Residents wishing to pour foundations must know what rules will be so they can plan houses accordingly.

The council moved to have the city attorney draw up an amendment to the city building code that people be allowed to establish the building line for homes 50 feet from the center of the adjacent city street.

If streets were narrowed to 60 feet, it would be possible for a person to build no less than 20 feet from the property line along the street.

There are several factors involved in the changes, such as what to do with the 15-20 feet which would be trimmed from existing streets. Gage said this land would either revert to the property owner or be retained by the city in some way. This is a matter which must be discussed with residents, he noted.

The 60 foot street would be 50 feet from curb to curb, allowing for approximately one-foot curbs and four foot sidewalks on either side. However, the city doesn't plan to worry about curb and gutter work at this point.

One factor which complicates the street plans is that the city had paved only about 27 feet of each street before the flood. Mayor Lyle Moon says the city would like to completely cover the streets when they are paved again. "If we cut the street size, we won't have to pay as much to pave the extra feet on either side of the 27 feet," he noted. The government will reimburse the city for 27 feet of pavement down each street.

Seth Bills, council member in charge of the sewer and water systems, said it has taken a long time for a bid to be let on the new water system because the city is waiting for processing of a federal grant which would pay about half of the estimated $560,000 that the new system will cost.

Bills said Clayter Forsgren, city engineer, has hand-carried the grant from office to office in Washington, D.C., to move it through red tape faster. Forsgren is hoping the bid can be let by Oct. 1, with a projected finishing date for laying of water lines set Dec. 15. (Water lines to each home would be connected as homes go up.)

"The grant will save residents from being taxed extra," says Moon. "We'll have to wait, but we might as well wait as have to pay the $250,000 of that grant over 30 years."

In the meantime, lines to Sugar-Salem High School and Central Elementary School will be laid next week from the pump which supplies water to the Department of Housing and Urban Development trailer courts These will be the first lines of the new water system, Bills said, and will cost $12,000 to $14,000.

Homeowners should add $400 to Bureau of Reclamation for damages to water systems connected to each home, officials said.

Where lines are functioning in Sugar City, water will be cut off next week because the old system must be severed from lines to schools and trailer courts, Bills said.

Then the old system will be served from a pump in the city building.

Moss asked if citizens could hook up to the new school lines. A representative from Forsgren's office said the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare wants to get the schools hooked up first, then perhaps they will consider requests from private citizens.

Health department regulations also will make it impossible for citizens to hook onto HUD village line from private homes, even if those homes and connecting water lines are free of flood impurities and cracks.

Two citizens requested such a hook-up, but were told it could not be done because if the city pump quit, contaminated water would seep into the system from broken lines.

The new water system will feature eight-inch water pipes for main arteries and six-inch pipes in other areas, Bills said.

He noted that a state law requires 10 feet between water and sewer lines, so instead of being buried in alleys, some will be buried in streets. Cost for the water system will be $560,000. Of that, about $126,000 has been paid by the government, $250,000 will come from the grant and the city may be bonded for $130,000.

The city's sewer system will be fixed, and officials are talking about the feasibility of a joint sewer lagoon for Sugar City and Rexburg. Bills said only necessary changes will be made in the system so that the lagoon could possibly be built in two to four years.

He said the school sewer systems are fine.

Costs and ideas were flying as representatives of the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) discussed the possibility of geothermal heating for Sugar City.

The main consensus was that it would probably be too expensive for the city, but as long as the government is paying the bill for research into geothermal heating, researchers may as well find out if there is a suitable geothermal resource near enough to Sugar City to make such heating feasible.

Because geothermal heat is a new energy source and relatively rare, it costs a lot, officials said. Just to find out if there is geothermal heat near enough to Sugar to be practical will take another $150,000.

Don Bird, city council member who works with ERDA, said he has explored possible government funding and may be able to get a grant which would provide 100 per cent of the funding necessary to complete studies. He was requested by the council to write and see if the city can acquire the grant.

J. F. Kunze, head of the ERDA team which has made a preliminary study into geothermal heating, reported to citizens that most hot underground wells in the area are where people have drilled into a fault in underground rock where water seeped up from a hot underground reservoir.

The closest faults where hotwater has been found are in Newdale, where some wells have a temperature of 97 degrees. There may also be some hot water faults along the Rexburg Bench, because these are areas where the Snake River flood plain comes to an end and rocks are broken, like the edges of a rock basin sitting in a larger basin of hot water.

However, both of these are too far from Sugar to be economically feasible because it would cots $100,000 per mile for pipeline to be laid to Sugar from the well, Kunze said.

So , if a well can't be drilled where geothermal resources are known to exist, one could be drilled closer to Sugar. But nobody has ever drilled for the hot water in the middle of a flood plain, and the well would probably have to be exceptionally deep, Kunze said, That's where the $150,000 for extra studies comes in.

Officials said there's actually a better chance of finding geothermal heat close to Rexburg than there is for Sugar City.

Possible drilling techniques would cost from $280,000 to $725,000, and there would be no guarantees that drillers would strike hot water. The total minimum estimate for a geothermal system would be at least $1 million. (Kunze said the system in the city would cost $580,000 to distribute water to homes.)

He noted that most of the costs for geothermal heating come at the front end, when the wells are first drilled, and th once the system is going, it wouldn't co nearly as much as other methods heating homes.

So, it's too expensive. But it's a futur possibility for Sugar City heating, and th idea of a central heating plant for the cit is still being discussed. ERDA peopl encouraged Sugar City people who ar rebuilding to install forced air heatin systems, which could be adapted to variety of heat sources: geothermal, hea pumps, central boilers, electricity, oil an gas.

Kunze said the central heat pump system of heating homes is an advanced idea that's becoming common. Under the system, water is pumped from a well, heated at a city plant, then circulated to homes, where it would heat air in a forced air system, just like the geothermal system. Individual home heat pumps could also be used, he said.

A potential fuel for central heating is pellets made from waste wood products, said an official of Targhee National Forest. He noted that the forest has an unlimited supply of material for the pellets and it would provide more efficient heat and less pollutants than other fuels, besides being cheaper.

Kunze noted that a forced air system may cost up to $100 more than other systems initially, but could prove cheaper in the long run. Average cost figures for heating a Sugar City home on a cold winter day were given for various fuels: gas, $2.50; oil, $3-$3.50; electric resistance heating, $7; heat pumps, $2.30 and coal, $1.25.

Energy costs for an entire home heating season (minus costs of capitalization) were given in the ERDA report. They were natural gas, $390; fuel oil, $460; electric resistant, $880; coal-fired boiler, (community central heating) $220; geothermal, $70; low temperature (90 degrees) geothermal, (community central heating) $280; individual heat pumps $310 and cool water heat from heat pumps, $380.

Sugar citizens like changes in street size, building code

SUGAR CITY — People aren't letting grass grow under their feet as they plan new homes in accordance with a change in the width of Sugar City streets and an amendment to the city building code approved by residents Wednesday.

The changes will give residents more room for homes on their lots, says Norman Gage, city councilman who proposed the changes to residents at a public meeting. One person had started digging a foundation in accordance with rules Thursday morning, reported Mayor Lyle Moon.

Only two of approximately 70 people at a public meeting Wednesday night voted against a plan to make Sugar City streets 60 feet wide instead of 75 or 80 feet, Gage said. all residents at the meeting voted in favor of a change in the building code which would allow them to build homes 20 feet back from the property line in front of homes along the street.

Many people have decided to begin rebuilding homes this fall, Moon said. He noted that 61 building permits have been issued by the city office.

Sugar City had approximately 200 homes before the Teton Dam flood June 5, officials say. Since that time, about 130 have been demolished by companies contracted by the U.S. government. Moon estimates that 80 per cent of Sugar City homes were destroyed by the flood.

There will only be one more demolition contract let for Sugar homes, Moon said. He noted that residents have until Oct. 5 to release homes to the government for demolition. After that, they will have to make their own arrangements for having buildings torn down.

As homes came down, city officials decided if any changes were to be made in streets and building code, it was a good time to make them.

The ordinance approved by residents calls for a reduction in the width of east-west roads from 75 feet to 60 feet and a reduction in the width of north-south streets from 80 feet to 60 feet, Moon says. Exceptions to changes include Center, Maple, 3rd South and 3rd North streets, and Austin and Cutler Streets between Center and 1st North streets, reports Mary Smith Oldham, city attorney.

Extra property on either side of the roads will be deeded to property owners with lots adjacent to streets, Gage said.

Gage said those who voted against the proposal might have thought they would have to take care of a lot of extra property. "In reality, they'll take care of about the same amount as ever," he said. "People have been taking care of some city property."

Gage said the ordinance will create several advantages such as giving residents better utilization of property, saving money for residents and the city if it is ever decided that curb and gutter work needs to be done, and cutting the speed of traffic in the city to protect pedestrians, especially children.

Residents also approved an amendment to the building code which will enable them to build homes 20 feet back from the front property line instead of 25 feet.

Gage noted that between narrowing the streets and changing the building code, some residents will pick up between 12.5 and 15 feet of property to use in building new homes. This is especially advantageous to people with corner lots, he said.

The narrower streets will not be completely paved. The government will pay for 27 feet of pavement down each street, which is what the city had before the flood, Gage said. Property owners can pave the rest if they want to, he said.

The streets will be 50 feet from curb to curb. One foot is allowed for curbs on and four feet is allowed for sidewalks on either side.

Moon said the city engineer will make a city survey soon so residents can find out the landmarks as they start digging foundations for homes.

In other business, he said dog control has been poor in trailer courts where residents now live. "The leash law is still in effect," he said. "We will issue citations to dog owners if their pets are not leashed."

At a meeting Tuesday night, Sugar residents got tips on how to save energy in home building from representatives of the Idaho Energy Office. At their Wednesday meeting, they received handouts on approximate costs for heating homes with electricity from Utah Power & Light Co.

25 July 1976 Sunday

Today there was no Relief Society meeting during the Priesthood meeting following Sacrament Meeting. The presidency felt the sisters were lagging in interest as smaller turnouts each Sunday would indicate, so gave them a rest. It is quite a long time to tend little ones through the block of meetings.

President and Sister Thomas (the former Margaret Wilding of Sugar, daughter of John Wilding) were the speakers at Sacrament meeting today. A special sextette number was prepared by sisters of our ward under the direction of sister Janet Hibbert. The song was, "This Is My Country". (9 actually sang)

At 9:00 p.m. President Sonderegger spoke at a fireside in the Relief Society Room at the Stake Center for the young people.

All of the trailers are in the North Trailer Park in Sugar now.

26 July 1976 Monday

Members were excited and anxious about moving into their trailers. There were 55 people who received their keys and Life Kits to their trailers today. These kits provide all the essential things for living just taking it for granted one did not save one thing from his home. There is a set of plastic dishes, stainless steel flatware, basic cooking utensils and knives, spatulas, large spoons, etc., blankets, sheets, pillowcases, etc. Most trailers were clean and a pleasant surprise. They have been used in other disasters. For most of them this is about the fourth time they have been used. Some seemed new, however. People had been given a choice of two two-bedroom trailers or one three-bedroom trailer, if their families warranted that much space. Many are using one for sleeping and the other for living activities. There are gravel driveways through the village and for each trailer's car. Steps were built up and a handrail.

One busload from North Bountiful Stake and one busload from Val Verda Stake arrived to help today.

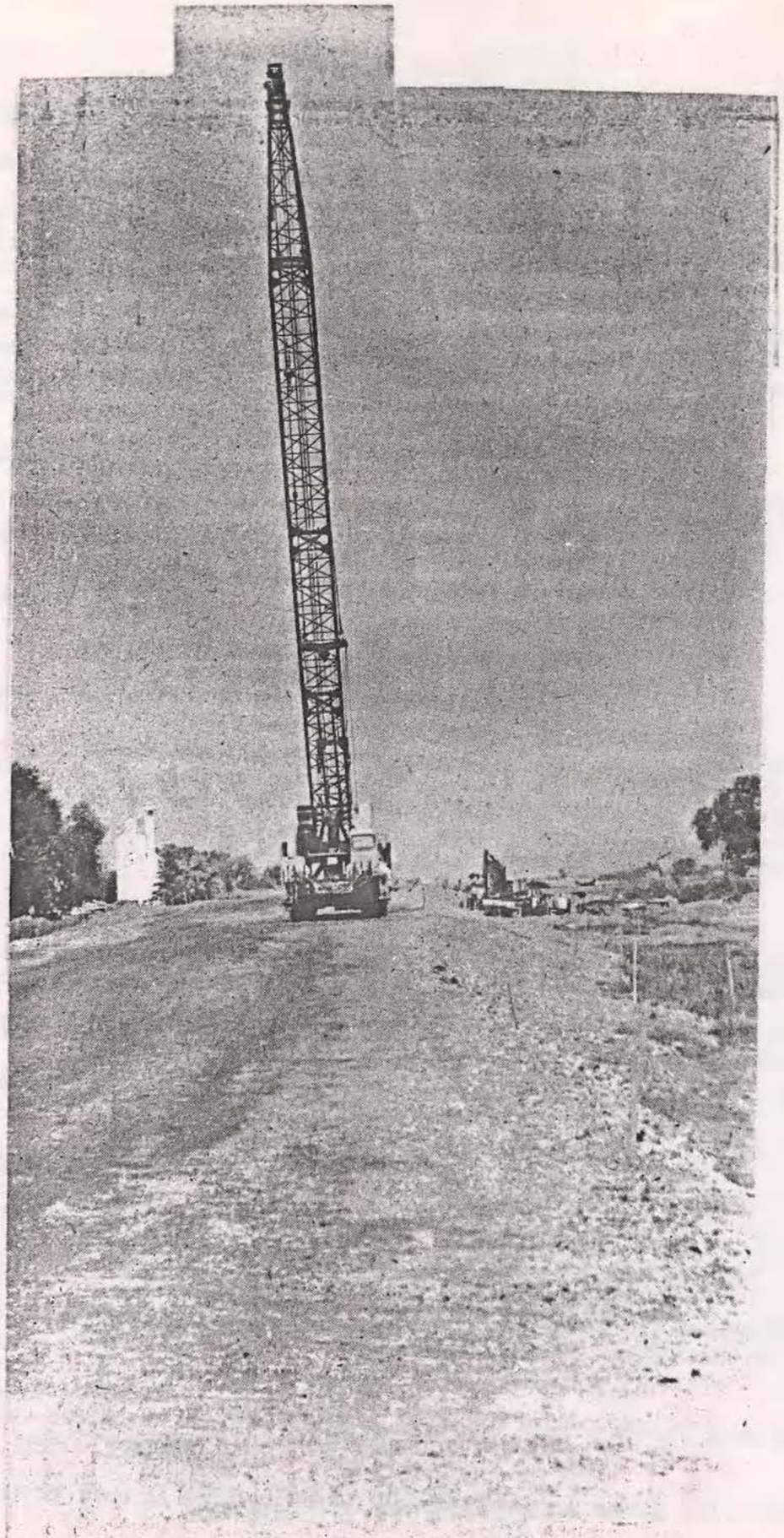
Eleven boys from our ward left at 7:00 a.m. for Scout Camp at Treasure Mountain. It has been several years since our troop went there. Dr. Rex Mabey gave free physicals at 7:00 a.m. to make it possible for our boys to go. Keith Arnold and Milton Wilding took them up to camp. It was free to flood victims this year. It was paid for by the Jackson Scouting District with Fred Vik being responsible for this fine opportunity. Food and gear were furnished if necessary. Boys going from our ward were:

Richard Hawkes, Senior Patrol Leader	Clinton Arnold	Eric Oliphant
Grant Hawkes	Blaine Wilding	Mark Oliphant
Brad Jackman	Kip Harris	
Davis Jackman	David Brown	
	John Wilson	

27 July 1976 Tuesday

One bus from Bountiful East arrived.
Closing Social for APYW in the form of a Chickeree tonight.
Adventurer camp began this morning under the direction of Laurie Luke.
There will be volunteer help through Friday.

Young Adults meet tonight at 6:30 at Green Canyon in the form of a outing. Games, swimming, and eating.



Rebuilding the Sugar highway

This giant metal finger pointing skyward is really a state highway department crane that was put to work recently north of Sugar City on U.S. 191-20 where the old railroad over pass used to stand before the Teton Dam flood damaged it. Work on the mile-long stretch of highway, put out of commission by the flood, is proceeding just about on schedule. The original target date for reopening the highway was Friday, but Keith Green, district highway engineer, says it will be sometime early next week before the highway is ready for traffic.

28 July 1976 Wednesday

One bus from South Bountiful, three pickups and a panel.

Ward Meeting was held at the gym and supper served at 6:30. Priesthood leaders met with the bishopric after the meeting in the room back of the Command Post.

The B O R is in a position to make partial payment. It might alleviate the need to go through loaning agencies. Many people are bless ed in the past seven weeks through the Chruch Welfare Program, meals and housing have been furnished free.

29 July 1976 Thursday

2 busloads from Bountiful. 8th, 5th, 11th, 21st, 40th, and 44th wards.

Today is Stake Temple Day.

30 July 1976 Friday

1 bus and three pickups from Bountiful Heights.

Free testing of well water ends today.

Troop 109 won second place award as best troop at Treasure Mountain in spite of having no scoutmaster during the week as Brother Larry Hibbert was employed in flood work. Richard Hawkes was Senior Patrol Leader. The boys earned 65 merit badges during the week. Larry Hibbert and Leah Belle Hawkes took their cars up Saturd.morning and brought the boys home.

31 July 1976 Saturday

1 bus from Layton East Stake and 1 bus from Murray, Utah, full of young people came today. Bulldozed in Darrell Moss' and Dee Harris' homes today.

Beehives and scouts worked as service project taking apart bricks and stacking them for Bishop Dalling.
Adventurers and Scouts returned home today.

Open House for Connie McKague and Lee Zufelt was held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Dorm 31 in the Lounge.

1 August 1976 Sunday

Fast and Testimony Meeting.

2 August 1976 Monday

Lunch at noon at Command Post. No buses of volunteer groups to come from out of state. 7 volunteer women were here from Ammon Stake to help clean trailers for people to move into. Two young men from the Stake Center also came to help.

Anyone eating at the Manwaring Center will need a ticket from the Bishop.

3 August 1976 Tuesday

Lunch at noon at Command Post (or gym). Command Post is moving into the City Building

28 July 1976 Wednesday

One bus from South Bountiful, three pickups and a panel.

Ward Meeting was held at the gym and supper served at 6:30. Friendhood leaders met with the bishopric after the meeting in the room back of the Command Post.

The B C E is in a position to make partial payment. It might alleviate the need to go through loaning agencies. Many people are alone at in the past seven weeks through the Church welfare program, meals and housing have been furnished free.

29 July 1976 Thursday

2 helicopts from Bountiful. 6th, 7th, 11th, 23rd, 30th, and 44th wards.

Today is Stake Temple Day.

30 July 1976 Friday

1 bus and three pickups from Bountiful Relights.

Free testing of well water made today.

Troop 109 won second place award as best troop at Treasure Mountain in spite of having no scoutmaster during the week as Brother Larry Hibbert was employed in flood work. Richard Hawkes was Senior Patrol Leader. The boys earned 65 merit badges during the week. Larry Hibbert and Leon Hawkes took their care up Ratty Mountain and brought the boys home.

31 July 1976 Saturday

1 bus from Layton East Stake and 1 bus from Murray, 7th. Full of young people came today. Billeted in Merrill Hall and Lee Hall. Meals today.

Registered and groups started on service project taking apart bricks and stacking them for Bishop Building.

Open House for County Officers and Lee Hall was held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Door 32 in the lounge.

1 August 1976 Sunday

Fast and Testimony Meeting.

2 August 1976 Monday

Lunch at noon at Command Post. 4 buses of volunteer groups to come from out of state. 7 volunteer women were here from Lemon Stake to help clean trailers for people to move into. Two young men from the Stake Center also came to help.

Anyone eating at the Newsreel Center will need a ticket from the Bishop.

3 August 1976 Tuesday

Lunch at noon at Command Post. Command Post is moving into the City Building

Cable goes underground

Although most telephone service has been restored in Rexburg, much work remains to be done in the areas hit hardest by the Teton Dam flood. Above, telephone company workers are busy laying plastic cable for telephone lines in the vicinity of the Rexburg Municipal Golf Course. Clyde Anderson, manager of the local Mountain Bell office, says 98 per cent of the telephone service in the local area should be restored within 90 days.

4 August 1976 Wednesday Last day noon meal was served.

Everyone who lost everything should get a bishop's order to get sugar, flour, spices, etc. that it will take to get going again. Take it for a start.

We are to go to the Bishop's Storehouse for milk or bread from now on.

When you get your claim you can bring the things back (furniture) received from the D. I. or pay for them.

There is a card on the furnace in your trailer telling where it came from, whether for cold climates, intermediate, or southern climates.

We should all be very grateful for our trailers and the government providing them. We should not criticize the government or HUD. Instead of working against HUD let's go with them. We should try to keep jealousy out of our lives especially now in observing others' trailers and furnishings.

Daryl Hoole, widely known among church members for her organization and homemaking abilities, spoke to the women of the Rexburg North Stake at the Stake Center today for two hours this morning and two this afternoon. Although she is scheduled a year in advance, she broke into her schedule to help out the women of the flood area.

She spoke on ways we can make our trailers homes and make this a good experience this year. Also she gave recipes since we've all lost ours. Many organizational tips were given and the Sisters came away uplifted.

A chef salad and bread sticks, sherbert and cookies were served for a luncheon. Host ward was Sugar 2nd, but the Stake helped with the expenses. They furnished the corsage presented to Sister Hoole.

All this was arranged by Sister Marilyn Southwick and Sister Mildred Arnold who went to Salt Lake in July on a tour of Sister Hoole's home and asked if she would do this for the sisters of our area. It was a very successful day and much needed by the sisters as was relaxing and a change.

5 August 1976 Thursday

The Command Post moved today to the City Building where Shirley Rice will continue to work.

Three members of the Raymond Hawkes family, Doug, Richard, and Jimmy narrowly escaped drowning when their canoe overturned at Shoshone Lake and they were in the water thirty minutes, going into shock, before being rescued. What irony that would have been to escape drowning in the flood and then have it happen on a vacation!

Young Adults are having a dance in the Hart Auxilliary Gym at 8:00 p.m.

6 August 1976 Wednesday Last day noon meal was served.

Everyone has been everything should get a dampy's order to get supper, linen, spoons, etc. that it will take to get going again. Take it for a start.

We are to go to the Bishop's storehouse for milk or bread from now on.

When you get your claim you can bring the things back (unwelcome) received from the D. I. or pay for them.

There is a card on the furnace in your trailer telling where it came from, whether for cold climates, intermediate, or southern climates.

We should all be very grateful for our trailers and the government providing them. We should not criticize the government or HUD. Instead of working against HUD let's go with them. We should try to keep leniency out of our lives especially now in observing storage trailers and furnishings.

Beryl Beals, widely known among church members for her organization and homemaking abilities, spoke to the women of the Bamberg North Stake at the Stake Center today for two hours this morning and two this afternoon. Although she is scheduled a year in advance, she broke this her schedule to help out the women of the flood area.

The people on hand as she made our trailers homes did make this a good experience this year. Also who were recipes which we've all lost ours. Many organizational tips were given and the history came away uplifted.

A chef salad and bread sticks, cherbert and cookies were served for a luncheon. Root beer was sugar and, but the Stake helped with the expense. They furnished the corsage presented to Sister Beals.

All this was arranged by Sister Marylin Sonnenkalb and Sister Mildred Arnold who went to Salt Lake in July on a tour of Sister Beals's home and asked if she would do this for the sisters of our area. It was a very successful day and much needed by the sisters as was relaxing and a change.

7 August 1976 Thursday

The Command Post moved today to the City Building where Sheriff Dale will continue to work.

Three members of the Raymond Hawkes family, Doug, Stephen, and Jimmy narrowly escaped drowning when their canoe overturned at Shenandoah Lake and they were in the water thirty minutes, going into shock, before being rescued. What a story that would have been to escape drowning in the flood and then have it happen on a vacation!

Young Adults are having a dance in the Hunt Auxiliary Gym at 8:00 p.m.

Two geologists say water's pressure, slippage, may be key to dam collapse

IDAHO FALLS — Pressures caused by water behind Teton Dam may have allowed "plastic deformation" of geologic structures underneath the dam, causing the dam's embankment to slowly slip away at the abutment, two geologists told a government panel investigating the dam's failure.

Two geologists, Dr. Robert Curry, professor of geology at the University of Montana, and Dr. Marshall Corbett, associate professor of geology at the University of Idaho, told the panel last week that their hypotheses should be included among the theories listed for the dam's collapse, says a news article in the Post-Register.

The panel discussed briefly procedures with which to test the theories of the two geologists and said it may suggest drilling a 1,000-foot hole to see if the geologic formation corresponds to that which would cause the slippage. Other tests, including elevation measurements, have been proposed, says the article.

The geologists indicated there were only minor differences in their two theories. Both men stressed they were not taking the position that their theories were correct, but that they should be considered along with other theories proposed to the panel.

Both theories are similar, saying that compressible rock and clay formations underlie the earthen dam and that the heavy dam, with water impounded behind it, could compress the rock to allow water to seep through at the contact between the embankment and the rock abutment.

Both men criticized regional geology studies made before the dam construction. "The Bureau of Reclamation [BOR] geologists were probably aware of the regional geography that had been done," said Curry. "The problem is so little geology has been done. When there is as little information as this it should be clear that additional information should be obtained or geologists should get the point across that they don't know much about it."

Corbett said if the geology had really been known the dam might not have been built at its present site. If his theory is correct, he said, there might not be any place on the river where construction of a dam would be safe.

Responding to a question from the panel, Corbett said rapid filling of the reservoir could have aided the failure. The stress on the dam was a result of a number of things, including reservoir filling, high snow melt runoff, and various geologic features.

"All of these things take on ominous importance when you see the result. As engineers know, the rate of application of stress is as important as the final amount of stress," Corbett said in the article.

He said his theory indicates that stress and the subsequent "creeping-type" movement of the dam would have started when the reservoir filling was begun.

Curry said the dam would have only to have moved "a few centimeters" for the dam to fail, the news article says.

The government panel, a separate panel from the independent panel also investigating the dam's failure, questioned the two professors at length about their theories. The panel consists of officials of the BOR, Geological Survey, Army Corps of Engineers, Soil Conservation Service, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Dennis Sachs, deputy assistant secretary of Interior for Land and Water Resources, is serving as chairman of the panel.

The panel has been considering four ways that internal erosion of the dam's embankment (piping) could have led to the failure — cracking or fracturing of core materal, piping along the interface between the core and foundation, flow through the grout curtain (a cement-like barrier to water) and flow around the grout curtain.

Corbett says his theory indicates piping was an effect of the dam movement rather than simply a cause of the dam's failure.

The news article quotes Curry and Corbett as saying their theories could have been easily proved or disproved if tilt meters had been installed at the dam. These instruments detect movement of the embankment, when any movement which may have occured would not have been measurable with seismographs.

The panel, in its discussions, considered including the Curry and Corbett theories in its final report, which originally was scheduled for completion in December, the news article says.

Sachs pointed out, however, some of the work at the dam site proposed by the panel may not be accomplished until spring. As a result the panel may suggest to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior that the final report be delayed until completion of the work proposed.

Panel members have been working on an outline of the final report as well as an interim report due Oct. 15, the news article says.

Sachs suggested the interim report include sections on theories being considered for the dam's collapse, a description of what the panel is doing and its results to date and statements about the panel's assessment of the likelihood of the various hypotheses put forth.

He said that the report also should include work not started but proposed, and might be "10 or 15 pages long."

The panel also discussed construction of a scale model of the dam, which might be invaluable as the panel continues its investigation.

Two geologists say water's pressure, slippage, may be key to dam collapse

LIMPIO FALLS — Pressures caused by water behind Teton Dam may have allowed "plastic deformation" of geologic structures underneath the dam, causing the dam's embankment to slowly slip away at the abutment, two geologists told a government panel investigating the dam's failure.

Two geologists, Dr. Robert Curry, professor of geology at the University of Montana, and Dr. Marshall Cooper, associate professor of geology at the University of Idaho, told the panel last week that such deformation could be induced among the diorite found for the dam's collapse, says a news article in the Post-Register.

The panel discussed widely publicized work which in part the geologists of the two geologists said could only happen if filling a 1,000-foot lake in one of the geologic formations corresponding to that which would cause the slippage. Other tests, including elevation measurements, have been proposed, says the article.

The geologists indicated there were only minor differences in state two decades. Both were stressed they were not stating the position that their theories were correct, but that they should be considered along with other theories proposed to the panel.

Both theories are similar, saying that the geologic rock and clay formations underlie the earthen dam and run in the lower dam, with water impounded behind it could compress the rock formation water to seep through at the contact between the embankment and the rock structures.

Both were criticized regional geology studies made before the dam construction.

"The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) geologists were probably aware of the regional geography that had been done," said Curry. "The problem is in time geology has been done. When there is an under information as this it should be clear that additional information should be obtained in geology. It should get the point across that they don't know much about it."

Cooper said if the geology had really been known the dam might not have been built at its present site. If this design is correct, he said, there might not be any place on the river where one could build a dam would be safe.

Responding to a question from the panel, Cooper said rapid filling of the reservoir could increase the failure. The stress on the dam was a result of a number of things, including massive filling, high water, rapid rise, and various geologic structures.

"All of these things take on significance when you see the result. As engineers know, the rate of application of stress is as important as the final amount of stress," Cooper said in the article.

He said his theory indicates that stress and the subsequent "creep-type" movement of the dam would have occured when the reservoir filling was begun.

Curry said the dam would have only to have moved "a few centimeters" for the dam to fail, the news article says.

The geologists gave a separate panel from the independent panel also investigating the dam's failure, questions of the two professors at length about their theories. The panel consists of officials of the BOR, Corps of Engineers, Army Corps of Engineers, Soil Conservation Service, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Dennis Stein, deputy assistant secretary of interior for Land and Water Resources, is serving as chairman of the panel.

The panel has been considering four ways that internal stresses of the dam's embankment leaning could have led to the failure — crumbling or fracturing of material, piping along the bedrock, failures of the core and foundation, flow through the grout curtain in addition to the barrier to water, and flow around the grout curtain.

Cooper says his theory indicates a strong stress as effect of the dam construction rather than simply a crack of the dam's core.

The news article quotes Curry and Cooper as saying their theories could have been easily proved or disproved if all moneys had been matched at the dam. These instruments detect movement of the embankment, when any movement which may have occurred would not have been measurable with seismographs.

The panel, in its discussions, considered including the Curry and Cooper theories in its final report, which is expected was scheduled for completion in November, the news article says.

Some points, however, were at the work at the dam also proposed by the panel may not be geologically sound, Curry said. As a result the panel may suggest to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior that the final report be delayed until completion of the work proposed.

Panel members have been working on an outline of the final report to meet an interim report due Oct. 15, the news article says.

Stein suggested the interim report include recommendations for the dam's rebuilding, and the other's conclusions of what the panel is doing and its results to date and adjustments, since the panel's assessment of the likelihood of the various hypotheses put forth.

He said that the report also should include work not finished but proposed, and might be 10 or 15 pages long.

The panel also discussed construction of a scale model of the dam, which might be involved in the panel continuing its investigation.

Dam crack found, stress likely cause

IDAHO FALLS — A major crack in the right abutment has been uncovered at the Teton Dam.

An independent panel investigating the dam's failure uncovered the crack during excavation work, but panel members stress that the crack may have nothing to do with the collapse of the dam, says an article in the Idaho Falls Post-Register.

"I don't think this is the discovery we've been looking for," said Robert Jansen, executive director of the panel. He said there was no evidence of water in or near the crack, which runs vertically for at least 25 feet and is nearly an inch thick in some places.

"You might expect a crack of this nature on high fill where the center part of the dam was removed," Jansen says in the news article. He says the "same general phenomenon" has occured on the left side of the dam, opposite from where the dam was breached June 5.

The panel has been excavating on the right side of the dam looking for clues to the cause of the collapse. No major discoveries have been made as yet, but panelists say they expect to find the main evidence down another 40 feet.

A tunnel designed to release water through the dam became filled with mud and silt when the dollapse occured, and the panel is cleaning it to study it for signs of stress.

Jansen is pleased about progress of the work and plans to have most of the excavation completed and the tunnel cleared by Oct. 4 when the main body of the panel arrives. The panel is expected to release a progress report at that time, says the news article.

Holes are being drilled into the spillway base to identify material down to 100 feet. Water under pressure will also be pumped into the drill holes to test the water tightness of the drill holes.

Possible theories for the dam's failure proposed by the panel are massive seepage through the dam's grout curtain. Seepage through the core at core-to-rock contact, seepage through the core above the base of the keyway core-to-rock contact or seepage through a crack in the core.

Jansen said in the article that the panel's staff has made no significant discoveries that would eliminate additional theories for the collapse.

Massive seepage around the grout curtain as a likely cause of the collapse was eliminated by the panel in an August report to the U.S. secretary of the interior.

The completion of the panel's work is planned for December with a final report due at that time. The panel is scheduled to meet in Idaho Falls Nov. 1-3 and Dec. 7-10 in addition to the meeting early next month says the news article.

Crews at dam continue to look for clues

IDAHO FALLS (UPI) — Construction crews at the site of the Teton Dam are half finished and excavation is some 75 per cent complete on the dam's abutment as digging continues to uncover clues to the dam's failure.

The nine-member, panel, investigating the collapse is still working to determine the failure, and has begun compiling its report. It has scheduled another work session in Idaho at the

Dam investigators discover cracks, disagree on cause

BOISE (UPI) — Engineers looking over the Teton Dam say they've found two-inch cracks in earth fill, and they're trying to find out if the cracks resulted from the dam collapse or caused it.

Consulting engineer Wallace Chadwick of Los Angeles, who heads the independent panel investigating the

From this point on will only be listed special events in the lives of members of Sugar Second Ward. A day by day log has been kept for the first two months following the disaster until the time the members moved into their trailer homes.

Three new babies have been born into the ward this summer. Dal and Nancy Steel had one on Junelst, Jim and Marilyn Gee had a baby girl on July 16, and David and Debbie Davenport had a baby boy July . This fall Glenda Bagley had a baby boy Octber .

The town is looking better. Main street is improving. There is lots to do. The attitude of the people is good. A lot of demolition is going on, and altho it is a sad experience for the person to watch his home being demolished, it is a relief and healing process thereafter because things start looking up, rather than the depressing ruins. The Sugar Merc is looking for a new location which will give room for parking space.

We are to be sure we get permission from the HUD office before installing an electric dryer. Overloading of the circuits could cause damage.

We have a new garbage truck purchased from Seattle where Erastus Weekes and Rondo Barrus went to pick it up.

We are reminded that the dog leash law will be strictly enforced since we live so close together in the trailers.

The Forsgren-Perkins Engineers will present plans for our water and sewer projects this coming week. They will also make a city-wide survey to establish property lines. We should make sure we have our permits before starting repair or construction of any building in the city. Building permits costs will be waived by the city providing repair or construction is done on existing site.

Telephones are being installed in the trailers and most if not all have their previous telephone numbers. It is a real help to have our telephones again. We will never again take them for granted.

We are reminded again to take all we want out of our house before we sign a release to demolish (windows, doors, paneling, woodwork, bricks, stones, or keepsakes.) The salvage people big on a building as it stands when the release is signed.

<u>10 August 1976</u> <u>Tuesday</u>

Girls camp began and will extend through August 13. They left at 7:30 a.m.

There are no meetings for APYW, Primary, or Relief Society.

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10 August 1976 Tuesday

Girls camp began and will extend through August 15. They left at 7:30 a.m.

There are no meetings for AYW, Primary, or Relief Society.

We'll put the highway here

With all of the clean up and building going on in the world of grown-ups, these youngsters have a world of their own to work in as they scrape, shovel and push getting things shipshape. The magnitude of their task is reflected in how oblivious they are to anything else, even the camera's eye.

A friend to all

Even though he's kind of shapeless and funny-looking, Sugar City's "John" got a pat on the back for services rendered, apparently from Sugar-Salem High School pep club members. Outdoor chemical toilets like John are still seen in Rexburg and Sugar City streets.

17 August 1976 Tuesday

A wonderful summer ward party was held for us by the 10th Ward of Rexburg East Stake under the direction of Bishop Henry Weick. This was held in Smith Park at 6:00 p.m. on a beautiful summer evening. The weather couldn't have been nicer. They have hosted other wards which were in the flood and after it was over said that this was the most sociable group, stayed the longest visiting and enjoying it, and it gave them more satisfaction for their efforts. They served a delicious stew or barbeque which had cooked in a huge container all night, homemade bread, and watermellon for dessert. Sister Eileen Olsen was the Relief Society President and they had provided for us to take home one load of homemade bread for every sister in the ward, whether she attended or not. This was a real labor of love and helpfulness. We certainly appreciated this kindness.

19 August 1976 Thursday This

This was a very sad and shocking day in our ward and community for Val Arnold, age 30, passed away in the Idaho Falls Hospital after having been ill since last Friday, August 13. He had a numbness and paralysis come on, was taken to the Madison Memorial Hospital and from there to Idaho Falls. A tracheotomy was performed which saved his life at first. He had a very rare disease called , and finally died of a massive hemmhorage, leaving a wife, Dennay, and four lovely children under 5 years of age. He is the son of 1st Counselor Dean and Relief Society President Verla Arnold. He is also survived by all four grandparents and one brother, Mike. His family and wife showed courage and acceptance.

August 22 1976 Sunday Ward Conference At Hart Auditorium; Officers mtg. Dance Studio

23 August 1976 Monday

Our ward experienced our first funeral since the flood, for Brother Val Arnold. It was conducted and taken care of by the Sugar Ward of which he was a member, but his parents being in our ward made it very important to us, too. It was a combined ward funeral as far as attendance and sympathy went. There was a beautiful, peaceful spirit to it, and members shared even more than usual in this sorrow, since all have learned suffering this summer. It took place in the Rexburg North Stake Center and was the first meeting our ward members attended there. A lovely luncheon was served to the family by the combined Relief Societies.

27 August 1976 Friday

"Patriots and Petticoats" a Bi-Centennial Production written by Sister Ruth Barrus was produced at Ricks College and we were all invited.

Young Women's Venture Camp began today and extends through August 29.

31 August 1976 Tuesday

Today the Relief Society Presidency Verla Arnold, Leah Belle Hawkes, Marilyn Southwick, and Bonnie Bird, began visiting the people of our ward. It was a most enjoyable experience to go to the many trailers, alike in design and construction, yet each unique and homey because of its occupants.

17 August 1976 Tuesday

A wonderful summer ward party was held for us by the 10th Ward of Roxbury East Stake under the direction of Bishop Henry Welsh. This was held in Smith Park at 6:00 p.m. on a beautiful summer evening. The weather couldn't have been nicer. They have hosted other wards which were in the flood and after it was over said that this was the most receptive group, stayed the longest visiting and enjoying it, and it gave them more satisfaction for their efforts. They served a delicious stew or barbeque which had cooked in a huge container all night, homemade bread, and watermelon for dessert. Sister Eileen Olsen was the Relief Society President and they had provided for us to take home one load of homemade bread for every sister in the ward, whether she attended or not. This was a real labor of love and helpfulness. We certainly appreciated this kindness.

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August 22 1976 Sunday Ward Conference at West Roxbury Officers sig-
23 August 1976 Monday tithing

Our ward experienced our first funeral since the flood, for brother Val Arnold. It was conducted and taken care of by the Young Ward of which he was a member, but his parents being in our ward made it very important to us, too. It was a combined ward funeral as far as attendance and sympathy went. There was a beautiful, peaceful spirit to it, and perhaps shared even more than usual in this sorrow, since all have learned suffering this summer. It took place in the Roxbury North Stake Center and was the first meeting our ward members attended there. A lovely luncheon was served to the family by the combined Relief Societies.

27 August 1976 Friday

"Patriots and Pathfinders" a Bi-Centennial Production written by Sister Ruth Barrus was produced at Ricks College and we were all invited.

Young Women's Venture Camp began today and extends through August 29.

31 August 1976 Tuesday

Today the Relief Society President Verla Arnold, Leah Smith Hunter, Marilyn Southwick, and Nonie Sims, began visiting the people of our ward. It was a most enjoyable experience to go to the many trailers, alike in design and construction, yet each unique and homey because of the occupants.

We found all to be in good spirits and optimistic about their winter in the trailers. The things they had gleaned from their homes decorated the trailers in different fashions, especially wall hangings of verious kinds and plants. We heard very little complaining, or jealousy. Each person had some good ideas of how to fix things up better than anyone else. We learned a lot from our visits.

We encouraged the sisters and tried to show our interest and love in their welfare. We made the announcements about our Relief Society programs for this coming season and all seemed anxious to participate and glad to hear things were going to get back to normal.

Our goal was for all to visit, but this wasn't practical. Most of the time three of us went but once in a while only two could do the visiting. The visits extended all through September, October, and finished the first of November catching the working sisters at home.

We had quilts to distribute to all the widows and mothers with babies. The Ammon ward made made many quilts which they asked us to distribute in this way and also to those we felt were in need of them. Everyone showed great unselfishness as said, "Surely someone else needs this more than I!" One group salvaged material from "Helen's Fabric" in Rexburg immediately following the flood by washing the yards and yards of free material in the canal and thereby made 35 quilts from it. Ammon Stake made 43 quilts for us.
Stake " " " 19 baby " " "
Besides Ammon Ward the 7th Day Adventists gave quilts, blankets, sheets, towels, and baby things. Individuals and various other wards gave blankets to individuals in the ward, so much help was obtained.

The Interfaith Disaster gave out Bibles.

Some in our ward received cars as outright gifts.

We were admonished by our stake Relief Society President, Sister Katie Baird that when these quilts are given we should accept them and let them know how much we appreciate it. We should let them know how much the sisters in the other wards have done for them. People are concerned about them and want to help them and we should be appreciative.

Some young married people from Provo sent up some of their wedding gifts to give to those who had lost everything. We dispersed these things where we thought they would do the most good.

4 and 5 September 1976 Saturday and Sunday

Stake Quarterly Conference at the Hart Fieldhouse.

23 September 1976 Thursday

D. U. P. Opening Social was held at the home of Letha Harding at 2:00 p.m.

26 September 1976 Sunday

Fast Sunday. It was held in the Stake Center and the schedule was as follows:

We found all to be in good spirits and optimistic about their winter in the trailers. The things they had planned from their homes decorated the trailers in different fashions, especially wall hangings of various kinds and plants. We heard very little complaining, or jealousy. Each person had some good ideas of how to fix things up better than anyone else. We learned a lot from our visits.

We encouraged the sisters and tried to show our interest and love in their welfare. We made the announcements about our Relief Society programs for this coming season and all seemed anxious to participate and glad to hear things were going to get back to normal.

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We had quilts to distribute to all the widows and mothers with babies. The Lemon Ward made many quilts which they asked us to distribute in this way and also to those we felt were in need of them. Everyone showed great unselfishness as said, "Surely someone else needs this more than I!"
One group salvaged material from "Helen's Fabric" in Roxbury immediately following the flood by washing the yards and yards of free material in the canal and thereby made 25 quilts from it. Lemon Stake made 85 quilts for us.
Besides Lemon Ward the 7th Day Adventists gave quilts, blankets, sheets, towels, and baby things. Individuals and various other wards gave blankets to individuals in the ward, so much help was obtained.

The Interfaith Disaster gave out 8 quilts.

Some in our ward received care as outright gifts.

We were admonished by our stake Relief Society President, Sister Katie Baird that when these quilts are given we should accept them and let them know how much we appreciate it. We should let them know how much the sisters in the other wards have done for them. People are concerned about them and want to help them and we should be appreciative.

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<u>4 and 5 September 1976</u> <u>Saturday and Sunday</u>

Stake Quarterly Conference at the Hart Fieldhouse.

<u>23 September 1976</u> <u>Thursday</u>

E. U. P. Opening Social was held at the home of Lathe Harding at 2:00 p.m.

<u>26 September 1976</u> <u>Sunday</u>

Fast Sunday. It was held in the Stake Center and the agenda was as follows:

Ward Correlation Meeting	1:30
Sunday School	2:30
Sacrament Meeting	3:45
Priesthood Meeting	5:00

28 September 1976 Tuesday

Young Adults Stake Fireside at the Stake Center at 8 p.m. with President Rigby speaking.

29 September 1976 Wednesday

Opening Relief Socity Social was held in the form of a trip to Hawaii. All sisters came in appropriate dress and were presented a lai at the door to the Cultural Hall at the Rexburg North Stake Center at 7:30 by the Relief Socity Presidency.

They looked at the possible mini-projects for the coming year and then were seated at several long tables for a Hawaiin supper, after which a group of young college students from various South Pacific Islands presented a program of dancing and singing of their native countries. Ruth Johnson, Margarite Ball, and Pearl Hicks assumed the responsibility for the evening's decorations of grass huts, palm trees, etc. and the program. Letha Harding was in charge of the food. It was a very lovely evening, and a good diversion for all of us. A large crowd attended.

1,2,
3 October 1976 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

General Conference in Salt Lake. Our Sacrament meeting from 1:00-2:00.

4 October 1976 Monday

Relief Society began its regular meetings at 10:00 a.m. with the Spiritual Living Lesson given by Sister Rhea Thomas, in the Relief Society Room in the Rexburg North Stake Center.

5 October 1976 Tuesday

Pizza Party for Young Adults at Stake Center at 7:00 p.m.

Ward Auction at the Sugar City Church House at 5:00 p.m. where all furnishings (benches, tables, pews, etc.) that were in the Church will be sold.

10 October 1976 Sunday

The meeting schedule was the regular one from now on:

Sunday School	12:30
Sacarment Meeting	1:45
Priesthood	3:05
Relief Society	"

11 October 1976 Monday

School started both in the High School and Central Elementary. Also this was our first Homemaking Day, luncheon served, mini-classes in Stake Center.

Ward Correlation Meeting	1:30
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2 October 1976 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

General Conference in Salt Lake. Our Sacrament meeting from 1:00-2:30.

4 October 1976 Monday

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5 October 1976 Tuesday

Fiesta Party for Young Adults at Stake Center at 7:00 p.m.

Ward Auction at the Sugar City Church House at 5:00 p.m. where all furnishings (benches, tables, pews, etc.) that were in the Church will be sold.

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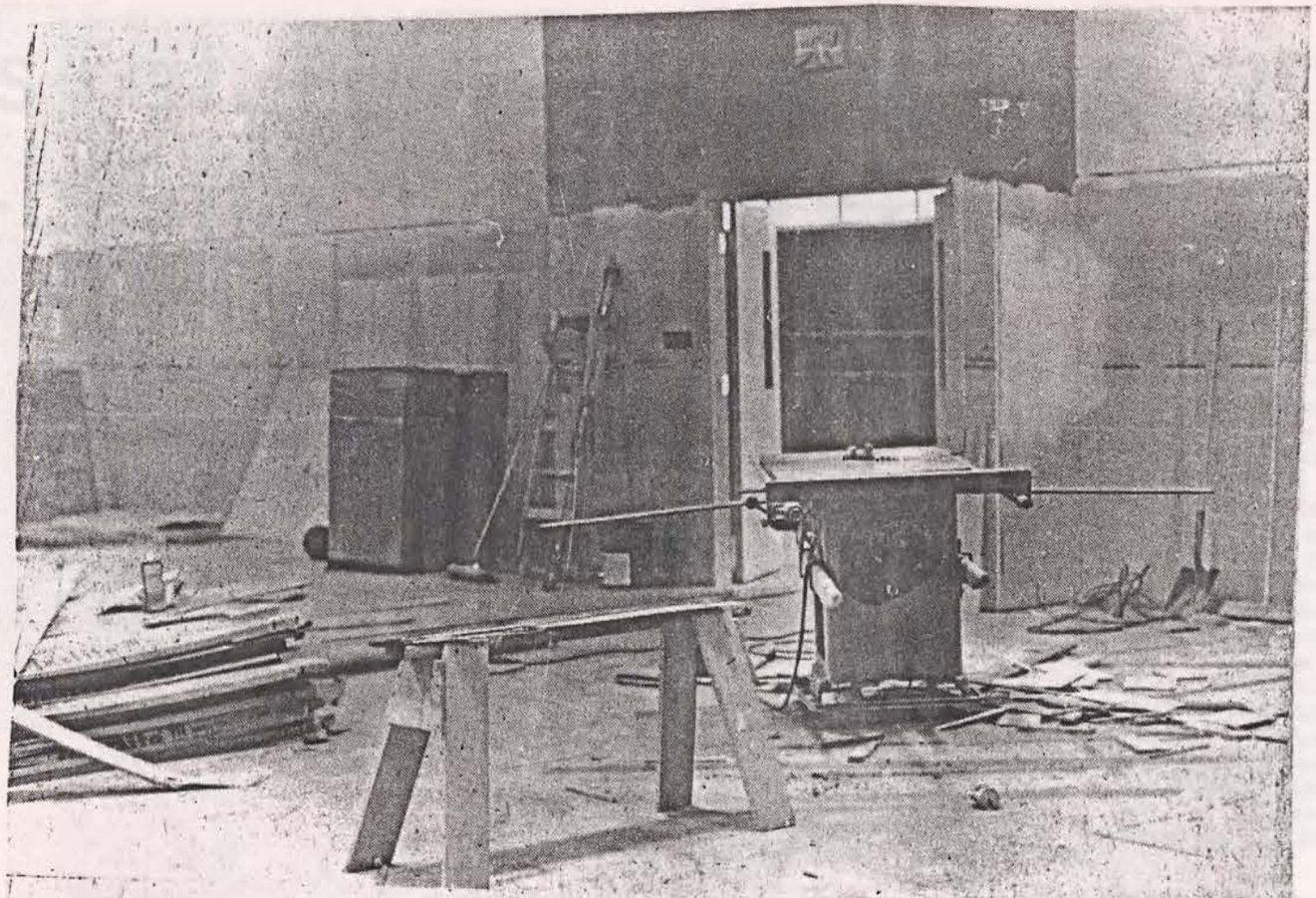


Classroom in disguise

Even though this doesn't look much like a classroom, officials of Sugar-Salem School District 322 hope things will fall into place so it can be filled with desks and students soon. The school board has set Monday as a tentative starting date, emphasizing that it may be changed. Lines to provide uncontaminated water to the schools should be laid by the end of next week. Several buses are still in Salt Lake City, waiting for repair parts, elementary school furniture has not yet arrived, and work on painting, carpet, tile and hardware is continuing, officials say.

Sugar schools set first day in four weeks

SUGAR CITY — Summer vacation and potato harvest vacation will melt into each other like chocolate and vanilla ice cream on a summer day for Sugar City students this year.

Sugar-Salem School District 322 will start school Oct. 11, school board trustees decided Tuesday.

Marie Davis, district secretary, says days of school which will have been missed up to Sept. 27 will count as emergency closure time because the delay in starting school was caused by repairs to schools damaged in the Teton Dam flood.

The school calendar will indicate that spud harvest is from Sept. 27 to Oct. 11, she says.

The main reason trustees set the October starting date was because new water lines to the two Sugar City schools could not have been completed before Sept. 27, Mrs. Davis said. Many area farmers indicated they would start digging spuds around Sept. 27.

Another reason is that heating system shipments will not be in until the beginning of harvest vacation, and heat will take two weeks to install.

Also, there are no chairs for students to sit on in Sugar Elementary, because of a late shipment, Mrs. Davis said. She noted that there are desks.

Contractors are just finishing final touches and should be completely done by Sept. 20, she said.

Students return to classrooms in flood-damaged area schools

Students who live in Sugar-Salem School District 322 and those who attend Madison Junior High School in Rexburg returned to class Monday for the first time since the Teton Dam collapsed in June.

Dr. Jean Waite, superintendent of Madison School District 321, said the junior high opening went "quite well under the circumstances," and Thomas Kershaw, superintendent of the Sugar-Salem district, said openings in his district "went better than anticipated, and after the first hour everything smoothed out."

Waite said heat is still not available at the junior high but the last heat pump was scheduled to be installed Tuesday.

Students have adjusted to the slightly chilly temperatures in the classrooms, Waite said, and there have been no complaints from the students.

Waite said the work schedule calls for the kitchen area to be completed by the end of the week and he anticipates that hot lunches will be available for the students soon. Workmen are using the cafeteria as a staging area and tile will still have to be laid on the cafeteria floor, Waite said.

Students and teachers will still have to wait until late November for the installation of four unit heaters in two classrooms and the library. "Except for that, we hope to be finished by the first of the week at the latest," Waite said.

Kershaw said that work at the elementary school in Sugar City would be completed in about a week.

At Sugar-Salem High School the auditorium still needs to be painted and seats installed and the gynmasium floor needs one more coat before it will be ready, Kershaw said.

He expects that work at the high school will take no more than three weeks to finish.

Kershaw said enrollment is close to last year's figures now, and when all students are in from spud harvest he anticipates a 10-12 per cent enrollment increase. The normal rate increase has been between 2-3 per cent the last several years, Kershaw said.

He said the district will take a survey to determine what percentage of students in the enrollment increase are temporary.

Waite said preliminary figures indicate an increase in Madison's schools, based on pre-enrollment figures, No final figures will be available, however, until later in the month when the district has a chance to study actual enrollment statistics.

Attendance at Madison High School was down 50 per cent Monday and Tuesday. The drop in attendance was due primarily to the spud harvest, Waite said. "Some students have called in and won't be back in the rest of this week," he said.

Waite said state education assistance is allocated on average daily attendance with the district allowed to submit attendance figures for the best 28 weeks of the school year. The school days missed this week cannot qualify for an emergency closure classification so there will be some concern if the absences extend past this week, said Waite.

SUGAR 2ND WARD
SUGAR CITY, IDAHO

October 3, 1976

To our Missionaries and Servicemen

Greetings:

Dear Brothers and Sisters, and we use the salutation with greater meaning and more love than we ever could previous to June 5. We have learned the lesson of what it really means to be brothers and sisters. We are all children of our Heavenly Father in a very literal sense of the word, but it has taken somewhat of a shock to give us a full understanding of our true relationship.

"Time flies on wings of lightning, we cannot call it back." The weeks seem like days, and months are only weeks. We have so much to do and want to get it all done in so short a time.

Out of our past experience has come blessings that we could not have anticipated a few weeks ago. When our Heavenly Father created for us this wonderful place to dwell, He looked over His work and said, "It is good." And it is very good. If we open our eyes we begin to comprehend the wonders of the universe. There is beauty on every side. What a place to live, and that is the way Sugar City will be. Before the flood, we were told by our Church leaders to beautify our homes and surroundings. This was very good advice bur we were faced with problems that we could not solve. Those old buildings--what to do with them? Those ragged fences--how shall we repair them? Now we know what to do with those old buildings and those old fences--they are all gone. We cannot repair or repaint. All we can do is rebuild. Think of it--everything will be new and when we have completed the job, we also will be able to say, "It is good." What a beautiful place Sugar City will be! How we will be envied all over the world having the one town with all, or nearly so, new and beautiful buildings.

Our ward also has its problems. A place in which to meet is our problem. Our once beautiful Church will not be ready for some time. We have lost our franchise at Ricks College. They must use their buildings for other purposes. There are so many people depending upon Ricks College. For the present, we are using the new Stake Center and theBishop says we are permanently located here for at least one more week. Today we meet there at 1:00 p.m. for our Sacrament Meeting between General Conference sessions. Conference is wonderful and we hope you all can see and hear it. Our leaders are the greatest people in the world and the most inspirational.

Again this month we must announce a sad tragedy that has come to our community. The tragic death of Kenneth and Gwen Garn fills our hearts and lives with sadness. We express our appreciation and love to their families. These folks were both killed in an automobile mishap in Missouri while on their way to visit with members of their family. The Lord knows what is best for us and perhaps He engineered it that way so that they could leave without tasting death.

I wish to refer you to the words of Jacob in the first chapter and 17th verse wherein he refers to "His errand from the Lord." Our Melchizedek Priesthood manual receives its title from these words. It is entitled "My Errand From the Lord." We are all on our errand from the Lord. That is what life is about. Each word and each act of our lives is an evidence of how well we are accomplishing our errand from the Lord. Be assured that all is well in your homes and your families are well and active in the Church. Your Bishopric is performing their errand from the Lord and are ever so much concerned with how you and we are getting along. They are men of faith, men of devotion, men of God and would request us to send their love and blessings.

We remain ever so sincerely your devoted Bishopric.

Glenn W. Dalling

Dean Arnold

Max Palmer

By Brother and Sister Ed Smith

Planting for something green

With a little cooperation from the weather man, this government trailer court in Sugar City will take on a new look before the first snow flies. These Ricks College students spent the day Saturday fighting the rain and flood-damaged soil to plant lawns on more than 60 lots at the trailer court. If all goes well, the tiny grass plants will rear their heads before long. The students have pledged to do some more planting at all the government trailer courts in the flood area, weather permitting.

Lawns planted by students at trailer city

SUGAR CITY — A group of Ricks College students put Saturday fun aside during the weekend to lend a helping hand to victims of the Teton Dam flood who are living in government trailer courts in Sugar City.

The students — some 250 of them — donned their grubbies and spent the day planting badly needed lawns for the flood victims, a news release fom the college says.

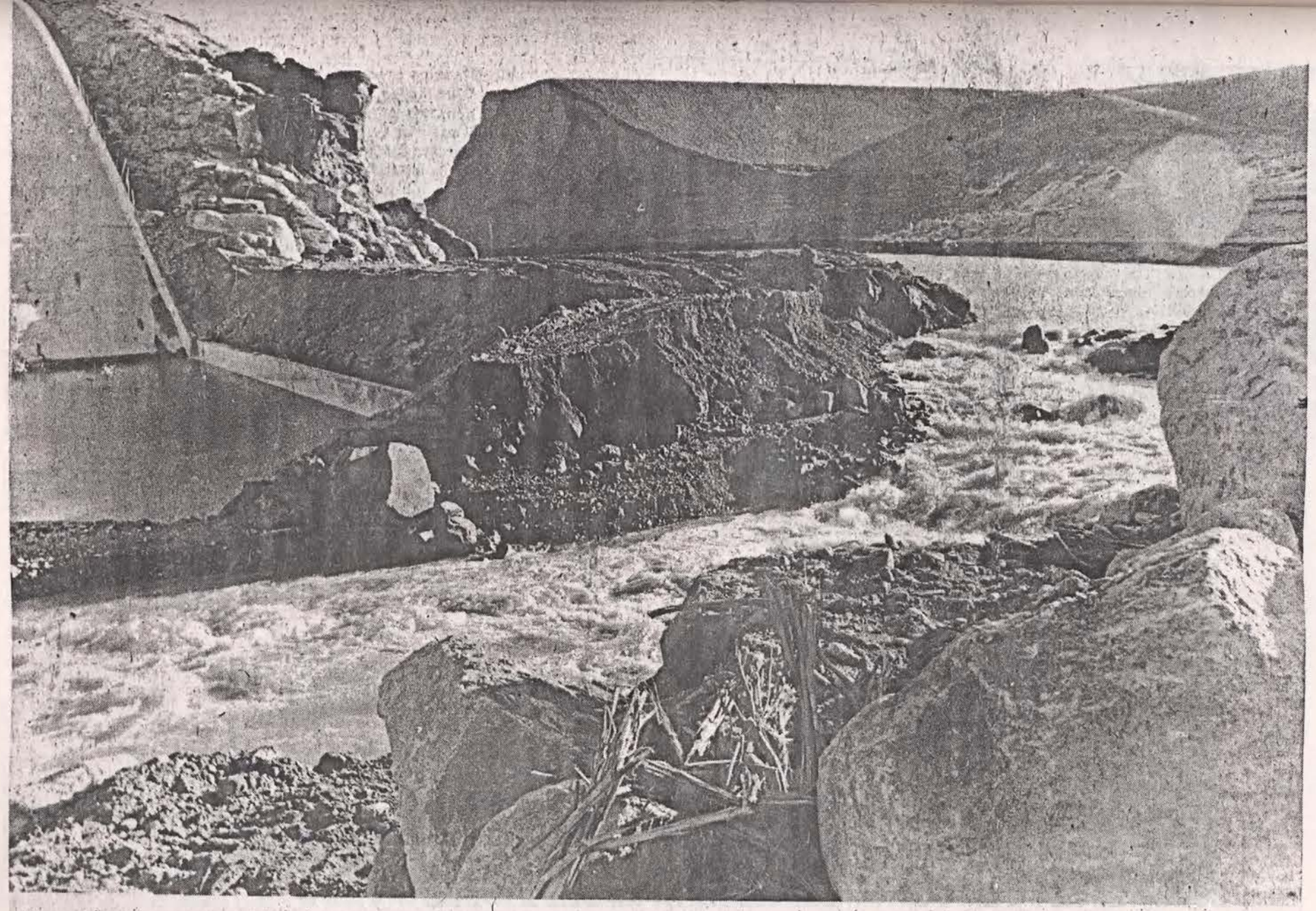
According to Neil Gossling of Spokane, Wash., studentbody vice president of activities, the students planted seed on 60 lots in the south trailer court at Sugar City and few more at the north trailer court.

He says in the news release that U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided 900 pounds of grass seed for the project and the tools to get the job done.

A number of families from the flood-devastated community north of Rexburg worked with the students to get the lawns planted. "They seemed to appreciate what we were trying to do," Gossling says in the news release.

The studentbody officer also says a number of lots in both Sugar City courts and at the HUD trailer city near Madison High School in Rexburg still need to be planted.

Several other service projects are planned by the Ricks students for the remainder of the school year, Gossling says in the news release.



Teton River rises again

Staff photo by Bruce Porter

This dike next to the spillway at the Teton Dam gave way Monday afternoon, causing considerable confusion and commotion downstream. The dike, left behind by the collapse of the dam in June, had formed a pool of water that the Bureau of Reclamation was attempting to drain. A bureau spokesman said there was never any real danger of flooding, but more water was released when the dike gave way than the bureau had anticipated. The excess water caused the Teton River to rise 18 inches at some points downstream. The ruptured dam can be seen in the background.

Reclamation officials to meet with Sugar City flood victims

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) will hold a series of public meetings beginning Wednesday to keep victims of the Teton Dam flood up to date on the agency's disaster claims program.

Frank Dimick, head of the Rexburg BOR office, says the meetings also will give representatives of the agency an opportunity to squelch rumors that circulate in the flood area concerning claims procedures.

"We feel there is a need for people to ask questions about the claims process," Dimick says. "We want to provide an opportunity for them to come to us for answers."

The first meeting, for residents of Sugar City only, will be held Wednesday at 7 p.m. in room 240 of the Classroom Office Building (COB) at Ricks College. Times, dates and places for future meetings for flood victims throughout Madison County will be set soon, according to Dimick.

He says he is hopeful the meetings will keep flood victims current on policies of the government agency, thereby putting an end to the numerous rumors that are constantly making the rounds in the flood area.

One such rumor concerns a flood victim who reportedly put several thousand dollars into repairs on her flood-damaged home only to find out the BOR had ordered that the sturcture be torn down without any additional compensation.

There is absolutely no truth to the story, according to Dimick. He says the bureau is not in the business of tearing down homes.

The agency, he says, merely provides the money to repair or replace flood-damaged property. "The claimant determines for himself what to do with the home," the BOR official says.

He also says it is up to the flood victim to decide what to do with the money received on a BOR claim. "We don't attach any strings to the money," Dimick says.

At public meeting

BOR draws wrath of flood victims

By RAY NASH
Staff Writer

Some 150 angry flood victims gathered at Madison High School Tuesday to vent their frustrations concerning the manner in which the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is handling their flood relief claims.

A number of them lashed out at claims verifiers from the bureau who, the flood victims said, treat them like chiselers out to rip off the government for as much money as they can get.

Still others who rose to speak during the more than two-hour-long meeting expressed anger at what they view as inconsistencies in the bureau's handling of their claims. Some said they were told at first to obtain bids from at least two different contractors for repair work on their flood-damaged homes and businesses only to learn later on the bureau would not be bound by any bid.

Others rose to accuse the verifiers of slandering humiliating them and in general displaying a lack of sensitivity to their plight.

"All my life I've been taught to be honest," said one woman whose voice began to break. "When I file my claim it will be honest . . . but you can't build a house on honesty."

A man, who said his claim isn't a large one, said he was told he would hear from the bureau within a few days after he filed. When he didn't hear from them he said he made six telephone calls to various BOR employes to find out what had happened. He was given the run-around each time, he said.

Most of the questions were fielded by Lloyd Ericson, chief claims officer for the BOR, who said a vast majority of the problems stem from a lack of communication.

Part of the problem, he said, is that a number of different BOR employes have come and gone since the Teton Dam broke in June. This has led to a breakdown of "internal communication," Ericson told the flood victims.

He also asked the flood victims to keep in mind the bureau has obligations to two sides — the taxpayers of the United States and the victims of the disaster.

"Since we do have these obligations, we have to be careful," Ericson said.

In response to the question concerning the bureau's refusal to be bound by contractors' bids, Ericson said the bureau is bound only by the facts.

"We can't be bound by one or two bids," he said. The bids might be made by someone who is seeking excess profits, the chief claims officer added.

In defense of the claims verifiers, Ericson said they are only fact finders, not decision makers. The final decision on all claims is made by an adjudicating officer, who determines what the facts in each individual case are.

Each claim is reviewed three times afte the loss verifier gathers the facts, Ericso told the flood victims. "That's as much a the government can do," he said.

One man asked if the BOR is obligate to pay for the "going rate" of the cost o construction in view of inflated prices i the flood area brought about by shortage of some materials that are in grea demand.

"Yes," said Ericson. "We realize wha your problem is and we don't want t penalize you."

However, he went on to say, some estimates for rebuilding are no competitive. In an attempt to reach an equitable settlement with flood victims, an appraiser with knowledge of real estate values will be given a voice in estimating losses, he added.

Another question concerned filing an amended claim after the authorized BOR officer has "signed off" the original claim. Once that is done, Ericson said, the claim may not be amended.

The Madison County assessor's office also took the brunt of some criticism at the meeting. Several of the flood victims claimed the assessor's office doesn't keep accurate records as to the size of a house.

"No appraiser's ever been in my home," said one man. "How could he estimate how large it was?"

In his closing remarks, Ericson said the vast majority of claims have been "conscientiously prepared." He also explained the bureau is not in the business of counseling flood victims as to what they should claim.

"We are in no position to negotiate with you between the time the claim is filed and a determination is made," Ericson said. "This is not a negotiating process. If we did it that way the best negotiator would come out on top."

The meeting was organized by June Catmull of Rexburg. Others in attendance included Congressman George Hansen, who urged the flood victims to contact his office if they have some specific questions they want answered. Hansen was accompanied by his wife and field representative Rich Hendricks.

At one point in the meeting Hendricks advised the flood victims to pad their claims to include legal fees if they had to hire an attorney. Later, he acknowledged he did make the remark but meant it "strickly tongue in cheek."

At public meeting

BOR draws wrath of flood victims

BOR resolves questions of Sugar City residents

By DEBRA NELSON
Staff Writer

SUGAR CITY — Bureau of Reclamation officials and Sugar City people have dug through a thick maze of questions and rumors to come up with some solid facts about filing reimbursement claims for damages done by the Teton Dam flood.

About 160 Sugar City people attended a meeting Wednesday where Frank Demick, head of the BOR claims office, and two assistants, explained claims policies.

Future question-answer meetings will be held in Rexburg, Demick says.

Perhaps the main item that was explained at the two-and-a-half hour meeting was the procedure for amending a claim once it has been given to the BOR, says Seth Bills, a Sugar City councilman.

Demick says a claim can be changed any time until an authorized officer signs a letter of determination to be sent to the claimant. (This letter informs a flood victim that his claim has been processed and he is to receive a certain amount of money.)

Claimes are processed in six stages or "stations" in BOR jargon. People should try to make amendments before the claim has reached the end of the fourth station, Bills said.

Sugar City people will need to include damage to home water and sewer lines on claims, Demick says. So, a claim submitted by a Sugar City homeowner should include $400 for laying and hookup of water lines from the home to the city system and $8 per foot for every foot of sewer line between the home and the city line, Bills said. (The hookup charge is included in that figure.)

Some people have already filed claims without including water and sewer damages and they need to take care of this, Demick said. He noted that they can amend the claim if it hasn't been completely processed, or they can submit an additional claim.

He outlined conditions under which a person can file a second claim. Regulations read, "An additional claim may be submitted by a claimant if the claimant had not discovered or could not have discovered the damage to or loss of property, income or personal injury prior to the determination of the claimant's single original claim by an authorized officer."

In other words, people can file for water and sewer damages if they didn't know they were supposed to before they got their letters of determination. "If they had an opportunity to amend it but failed to do so, it prohibits them from filing a second claim for that item," Demick says.

He says he hopes people will amend claims as soon as possible, if necessary.

Several rumors were clarified at the meeting. Demick said many people had the idea the BOR would force them to demolish homes. "We are leaving demolition up to the people and local authorities." he said.

He noted that money received for homes can be used in any way the people desire.

Some people had questions about Internal Revenue Service actions in regard to whether claims money is taxable income. Demick said people with these questions should contact the IRS.

Bills sys BOR officials stressed that flood victims should include everything they lost on claims, and they should try to amend claims if they remember lost items after the claim has been submitted, before it reaches station 4.

And he said if people think they made an error on the claim, they should see the BOR anytime after it has been filed.

He noted that Sugar people learned they can be paid for part of a claim before the total value of an entire claim is determined. For instance, a farmer can be repaid for a home and equipment, but can have the BOR hold the secion of the claim which contains a request for farmland reimbursement, if he wishes more time to determine the value of the land.

However, once part of a claim has been paid for, there can be no amendments to that section of the claim, he said.

Some older people haven't been claiming enough value for property, he said. For instance, they may claim only $8,000 for a home that they bought years ago, which is worth much more now. This can be alleviated if people claim the replacement value instead of their purchase price on property.

Bills said people could claim "utility" value on some items. For instance, many people had old books, etc., that had deterioated in value over the years because they weren't being used. By receiving utility value reimbursement, people could receive a sum which could be used to buy used books.

"On any item that's no longer useable, we would determine its value based on its utility value," Demick says. "For instance, a three-bedroom home that had been made into a garage would be replaced with the value of a garage, not a three-bedroom home."

Bills noted that when people claim books, they should try to use titles if possible.

Demick said another item clarified at the meeting was that the role of a loss verifier is that of a fact finder, not an accuser. Some people seem to feel that verifiers are accusing them of dishonesty, when acutally the investigators are trying to determine full information in connection with the claim.

He also noted that the BOR has stressed from the first that it cannot reimburse people for sentimental value of possessions or damages done to irreplaceable items like photographs.

BOR resolves questions of Sugar City residents

By DEBRA DERKEN
Staff Writer

SUGAR CITY — Bureau of Reclamation officials and Sugar City people have dug through a filed mass of questions and concerns to come up with some solid facts about filing water-damage claims for damages done by the Teton Dam flood.

About 150 Sugar City people attended a meeting Wednesday where Frank Davis, head of the BOR claims office, and two assistants, explained claims policies.

Future question-answer meetings will be held in Rexburg, Davis says.

Perhaps the main issue that was explained at the two-and-a-half hour meeting was the procedure for actually filing a claim once it has been given to the BOR, says Seth Hills, a Sugar City councilman.

Davis says a claim can be changed any time until an authorized officer signs a letter of determination to be sent to the claimant. (This letter informs a flood victim that his claim has been processed and he is to receive a certain amount of money.)

Claims are processed in a shorter or "statutory" is BOR jargon. People should try to make amendments before the claim has reached the end of the month, Hills said.

Sugar City people will need to include damages to some water and sewer lines on claims, Davis says. So, a claim submitted by a Sugar City homeowner should include BOR replacing and hooking up water lines from the house to the city system and 50 per hoo for every foot of sewer line between the house and the city line, Hills says. The hookup charge is included in that figure.

Some people have already filed claims without including water and sewer damages and they want to take care of this, Davis says. He noted that they can amend the claim if it hasn't been completely processed, or they can submit as additional claim.

The amount contained under which a person can "fix" a flood claim, Davis said, is an amount claimed.

As additional claim may be filed if the claimant had not discovered or could not have discovered the damages to be less or greater, income or personal injury. Also, to be determined at the discretion of single or joint claim by an authorized officer.

In other words, people can fix for water and sewer damages if they didn't know they were supposed to before they got their letters of determination. "If they had an inspector say or sound it but failed to do so, it provides them filing a second claim for that item," Davis said.

He says he hopes people will amend claims as soon as possible, if necessary.

Several rumors were clarified at the meeting. Davis said many people had the idea the BOR would have them in Rexburg homes. "We are having distribution up to the people and local authorities," he said.

He noted that money received for losses can be used in any way the people choose.

Some people had questions about Internal Revenue Service action in regard to whether claims losses is taxable income. Davis said people with these questions should contact the IRS.

Hills, who BOR officials stressed that flood victims should include everything they lost on claims, and they should try to amend claims if they remember lost items after the claim has been authorized, "before it reaches the station."

And he said if people think they made an error on the claim, they should see the BOR engineer after it has been filed.

He stress that Sugar people learned they can be paid for part of a claim before the total value of an entire claim is determined. For instance, a farmer can be paid for a tractor and equipment, but can have the BOR hold the money of the rest of a claim pending a request for increased replacement, if he wishes, some days or weeks later to determine the value of the land.

However, once part of a claim has been paid, there can be no additional money for that portion of the claim, he said.

Davis, Hills and Jerry Jensen, both attorneys handling the property, be paid. For example, they may claim pay $8,000 for a home that they bought years ago, which is worth much more now. This can be alleged if people claim the replacement value instead of their purchase price on property.

Hills said people could claim "utility" value on some items. For instance, many people had old boats, etc., that had depreciated in value over the years because they weren't being used. By replacing utility value, replacement people could receive a new which can be as used as they chose to.

"On my item that is an larger receive, we would determine the value based on the utility value," Davis said. Jensen said, "If a flood victim had lost a tractor which had been worn with a strong value, and a replacement tractor, he would be able to have the value of the tractor."

Jensen added people should be allowed to claim the value of a lost tractor, as well as the value of a lost trailer, and so on.

Davis said another item clarified at the meeting was that the rule of a loss variable is that of a lost trailer, not an automobile. Some people seem to feel that mobile homes are exceptions to the rule, he said, when actually the investigators are trying to determine full replacement in connection with the value.

He also noted that the BOR has stressed from the first that it cannot reimburse people for sentimental value of property, items or damages done to irreplaceable items, pet photographs.

Chief BOR claims officer will speak to disgruntled victims of Teton flood

The chief claims officer for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) will meet with victims of the Teton Dam flood Thursday at the Madison County Courthouse to field questions and attempt to clear the air of some apparent misunderstandings that have come to light in recent weeks.

The meeting, called at the request of Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, will get under way at 10 a.m. in the main courtroom at the courthouse. Lloyd Ericson of the BOR will be present to answer questions.

The need for such a meeting became apparent last week when Church met with some 80 angry flood victims who made it clear they're not happy with the way BOR workers are handling flood claims.

No one from the agency was present at the meeting to defend the job the BOR is doing.

The flood victims told Church they are unhappy with the BOR because the agency is using a different set of criteria in handling claims than the Small Business Administration (SBA) uses in granting low interest loans.

One man told the senator the SBA is allowing $30 per square foot to rebuild homes while the BOR is allowing only $27 per square foot.

"How can we ever break even?" the man asked Church.

Church told the man he would make an attempt to get the two agencies to "coordinate their efforts" to put an end to the apparent discrepancies.

Legislation with the "best intent" often "gets messed up in the administration," Church said. If the replacement cost of items is documented, the full amount should be approved by the BOR appraisers, the senator told the man.

Oliver David of the SBA, who was present at the meeting, told the flood victims appraisers from his agency are on loan to the BOR. "If there are discrepancies, it's because they're following Bureau of Reclamation guidelines," he said.

In response to a question from a woman in the audience who claimed the appraisers "really don't know what things cost," Roger McKenzie of the University of Idaho said there appears to be a breakdown in communication between claim verifiers and the head of the local BOR office.

"What you're saying is not at all what they're trying to do at the upper level," said McKenzie, development specialist at the U. of I. Center for Business Development and Research.

One man in the audience said he and other flood victims he knows have been subjected to ridicule and harrassment by BOR verifiers, "who look at our claims and try to knock off as much as they can."

He drew a round of applause when he said: "I think we have a very serious problem with the bureau. We here in Rexburg are good people and we only want a fair shake. I don't think we should have to take the intimidation that the Bureau of Reclamation is dishing out."

Church said he would do all he could to see that a BOR claims office is kept in Rexburg to serve flood victims.

$200 million more for victims of June 5 Teton Dam flooding

WASHINGTON — Victims of the June 5 Teton Dam flood have been given another $200 million in compensation by the U.S. Senate.

The money bill passed by the senate this week brings to $400 million the amount appropriated for victims of the flood. This latest bill still must clear the house which passed an earlier bill not containing money for compensation of flood victims.

Also included in the $865.3 million bill is $500 million to pay a portion of the Postal Service's $3 billion debt. Another $500 million is expected within the next 12 months.

Other appropriations include $134 million for repair and restoration of Defense Department facilities and housing on Guam that were damaged by Typhoon Pamela.

Another $2.1 million would go for costs of the presidential and vice presidential transition in January.

Chief BOR claims officer will speak to disgruntled victims of Teton flood

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The flood victims told Church they are unhappy with the BOR because the agency is using a different set of criteria in handling claims than the Small Business Administration (SBA) does in granting low interest loans.

One man told the senator the SBA is allowing $50 per square foot to rebuild homes while the BOR is allowing only $22 per square foot.

"How can we even break even?" the man asked Church.

Church told the man he would [illegible] as strongly as he can the two agencies to "reconcile their criteria" to put an end to the apparent discrepancies.

Regarding the "hard feelings" when "you mention up in the administration," Church said, if the replacement cost of homes is discounted, the full amount should be approved by the BOR appraisers, the senator told the meeting.

Oliver Dodd of the SBA, who was present at the meeting, told the flood victims approximately 75% agency loans on hold in the BOR. "If these are

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Also included in the $265.3 million bill is $200 million to pay a portion of the Postal Service's $1 billion deficit. Another $500 million is scheduled within the next 12 months.

Other supplemental bills totalling $124 million for repair and rebuilding of Dulcinea Corporation facilities and housing of Guam that were damaged by Typhoon Pamela.

Another $2.1 million would go for costs of the presidential and vice presidential transition in January.

Demolish now or forever hold your building, engineers say

IDAHO FALLS — Final bids for demolition of buildings destroyed by the Teton Dam flood are being sought by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Corps Capt. Ben Graham says in a news release, "These will likely be our final offers for demolition as our mission to accept home owner releases expires Saturday."

He urged owners of destoyed buildings seeking demolition to file their releases by Friday at 5 p.m.

Those in Madison County should file at the Civil Defense Office at the upper floor of the Madison County Courthouse, and those in the Roberts-Menan area of Jefferson County at the Jefferson Planning Administration at the Jefferson County Courthouse.

Graham estimated some 75 buildings will be demolished in Rexburg, 45 in Sugar City and a dozen in Roberts-Menan.

Tours for the Rexburg sites will begin Monday at 9 a.m. at the parking lot at Center and 1st North, for the Sugar City buildings Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the Sugar City Municipal Building and for the Roberts-Menan buildings Tuesday at 3 p.m. from Roberts fire station.

Bid openings for the Rexburg buildings are Wednesday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; for the Sugar City contract, Oct. 7 at 10 .m., and for the Roberts-Menan buildings Oct. 7 at 2 p.m.

All of the bid openings will take place at the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration (FDAA) field office at the ASCS building on Lincoln Road in Idaho Falls.

Joint Session

One college newspaper recently suggested that the marijuana question could easily be settled by a joint session of Congress.

Cutoff date nears for SBA help

IDAHO FALLS (UPI) — Teton Dam flood vicitms have been reminded by the Small Business Administration the final cutoff date for financial assistance applications is just days away.

Verne Leighton, Idaho Falls branch manager for the SBA, says the final day to apply for interim financing to repair or replace flood damaged property is Oct. 4.

SBA advances cash to flood victims for up to 100 per cent of the replacement costs of damaged or destroyed property.

Leighton said more than 1,400 people have requested help to restore their property.

BOR flood payments exceed $50 million

IDAHO FALLS — Payments to claimants of Teton flood losses have now topped the $50 million mark, says Loyd Ericson, chief claims officer for the Bureau of Reclamation in Idaho Falls.

His statement followed the payment of a $29,000 personal property claim to a Fremont County woman.

Ericson says in a news release from Idaho Falls that slightly more than 7,000 claims packets have been distributed to claimants in the major disaster area. About 3,600 of these people have filed claims with about one-third of them already receiving payments.

The largest claim paid so far has been $3,808,415, he says while the smallest check issued for flood damage has been $15. The majority of claims filed to date have been less than $25,000, the news release says.

Work on Sugar post office should be done before long

SUGAR CITY — Residents of Sugar City will have a newly refurbished post office of their own within the next six weeks to two months, says Postmaster Lloyd Luke.

For the past three months, residents of the community have had to drive to Rexburg to pick up their mail and send letters and packages because the post office in Sugar city, has been out of operation since the Teton Dam flood.

Luke says Harris Construction Co. of Sugar City has begun work on the flood-damaged building to restore it to preflood condition. Luke says the contractor is preparing to lay new tile and is awaiting arrival of postal boxes from California.

The postmaster says the new boxes will have key-operated locks rather than comination locks to guard against vandals and pranksters.

The building, owned by Harold Bean, was not damaged structurally by the flood, Luke says. However, he adds, the rampaging water gutted the inside of the structure, destroying just about everything with the exception of material stored in the safe.

The U.S. Postal Service will pay the complete cost of refurbishing the damaged structure, says Luke.

"From the blueprints, it looks like it's going to be a nice building inside," he says.

BOR flood payments exceed $50 million

HARRY PAYNE — Payments to victims of Twin Hood Lake have now topped the $50 million mark, says Lord Dawson, state director for the Bureau of Reconstruction in Idaho Falls.

The estimates included the payment of a $27,000 personal property claim to a Freedom County resident.

Dawson says in a news release from Idaho Falls that roughly more than 7,000 claims packets have been distributed to claimants in the Twin Hood Lake area. About 7,300 of those people have filed claims, with about one-third of them already receiving payments.

The largest claim paid so far has been $1,800,412, he says while the smallest claim issued for flood damage has been $18. The majority of claims filed to date have been for less than $25,000, the news release says.

Work on Sugar post office should be done before long

SUGAR CITY — Residents of Sugar City will have a newly refurbished post office of their own within the next six weeks to two months, says Lord Dawson Lake.

For the past three months, residents of the community have had to drive to Starkey to pick up their mail and send letters and packages because the post office in Sugar city has been out of operation since the Twin Hood flood.

Lake says Harris Construction Co. of Sugar City has begun work on the flood-damaged building to restore it to pre-flood condition. Lake says the contractor is preparing to lay new tile and is awaiting arrival of postal boxes from Cincinnati.

The post office in the new boxes will have been upgraded to a grade higher than and provides.

For building, owned by Harold Jones, was not insured, unfortunately for the flood, Lake says. However, he adds, the damage is more gutted the inside of the structure, destroying lots about every thing with the exception of insulated wires in the walls.

The U.S. Postal Service will pay the complete cost of rebuilding the damaged structure, says Lake.

From the blueprints, it looks like it's going to be a nice building inside," he says.

Flood victims to file lawsuit to prevent claims disclosure

A group of Teton Dam flood victims will file a class action lawsuit soon in federal court in Boise in an attempt to stop the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) from releasing information on individual disaster-relief claims to the public, a local lawyer says.

Gordon Thatcher of Rexburg, lawyer for the group, says he plans to file the class action lawsuit in federal court sometime early this week.

The BOR made it known last week that information including the names of flood victims, the amount of money they claimed and the amount they were paid will be released to the public beginning Monday.

Thatcher's clients hope to file the lawsuit in time to get a court injunction to stop the release of the information until the matter is settled.

"A lot of people are upset about this," Thatcher says. They're concerned primarily because release of the information will cause "backbiting" among neighbors and could bring in a new horde of "speculators" and "promoters" to prey on flood victims who have received money from the BOR, Thatcher says.

The Rexburg lawyer says the Freedom of Information Law on which the BOR decision to release the information is based on a relatively new one. "It's just not clear what the outcome will be," he says, "but we want to have judicial determination."

There are laws on the books dealing with the rights of an individual to privacy that may protect those who have filed flood claims from having information in their files released for public scrutiny, says Thatcher.

He said Monday he wasn't certain how many plaintiffs there would be or who they all are. Among those he did name are Ferron W. Sonderegger of Sugar City, The Rev. Michael A. Shaw, Keith Peterson and Don Rydalch of Rexburg.

The group will be "a selection" of those who have contacted his office to request that some action be taken, Thatcher said.

If a temporary injunction can't be obtained, the group will attempt to get the BOR to hold back the information while the "motion to show cause is pending," says Thatcher.

Several flood victims met with Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, last week to express their opposition to the BOR decision.

One of them recommended the amount claimed and the amount received be disclosed but not in connection with anyone's name. Another complained because the names of welfare recipients and the money they receive aren't published, while the names of flood victims and their claims will be.

One woman said she opposes the disclosures because they'll bring even more salesmen and speculators into the flood area than are already here.

Flood victims are not trying to hid anything, says Sonderegger. The group is upset, he says, because the disclosures would present a distorted picture of what flood victims have gone through and would only stir up problems between neighbors.

Flood victims to file lawsuit to prevent claims disclosure

12 Odtober 1976 Tuesday

There was a Revenue Bond Election from 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the City Hall.

Many new homes are going up. For a while, since most demolition was completed, the streets of Sugar have been almost bare. It is confusing to try and remember whose house was where. But lately there is an optimistic outlook as the many new homes, both commercially built and moved on, and those being built the regular way, are looming up to make us think we are coming alive again!

20 October 1976 Wednesday

APYW Opening Social was tonight at the Stake Center in the form of a Halloween Party featuring three silent movies, chili, cider, and cookies. Sister Nada Bowen is the new YW President.

21 October 1976 Thursday

Primary began for the year's work at the Stake Center. Parents are required to provide transportation over and back. Originally it was planned to hold Primary at the Multi-Purpose Room at the Elementary School in Sugar until we could meet at Salem, but this was ruled out and the Stake Center was the only solution.

23 October 1976 Saturday

Sister Loretta Johnson, a former resident, sent a lot of supplies to the first grade teachers. The rest of the teachers in her school likewise wanted to help out with patterns and things which were completely lost in the flood. A U-Haul Trailer arrived and unloaded supplies for Grades 1-6, music, everything.

7 November 1976 Sunday

Brother and Sister Al Hendricks have the distinction of being the first to move BACK into their new home in Sugar, which happened on November 5. It had been on the foundation for quite a while but water, electricity, etc. had not been available until that date. Theirs was the first new home moved into Sugar. The Brian Burt family, Don Birds, had been in thars ever since the flood, but this was the first to move back.

At this time, everything has been demolished on Main Street except the City Hall, Sugar Post Office, Melvin Bean's Hardware, the Hot Lunch Room, the High School, Butikofer's Real Estate Building on the South Side. The old Davenport Hatchery has been down several weeks, along with the Sugar Merc, and all the buildings owned by Asael Lyman directly east of the Merc. Just this past week the former hotel and adjacent buildings on the south side of Main Street was demolished and hauled away. So everything will be new. Every pioneer landmark is erased from the community with the exception of the portion of the Sugar Factory which is a Potato Warehouse. All the first homes of pioneers in Sugar have had to be demolished. This week the foundation is being dug for the new Sugar Merc directly east of where it was before. This is good news and a good note to end with. We are a wiser, humbler people for having experienced these past months. Our unity, love, and spirit for one another has deepened and grown. The Lord has blessed us with the preservation of our lives and will continue.

16 October 1976 Tuesday

There was a Revenue Bond Election from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the City Hall.

Many new homes are going up. For a while, since most demolition was completed, the streets of Sugar have been almost bare. It is comforting to try and remember where houses was where. Not lately there is an optimistic outlook as the many new homes, both commercially built and moved in, and those being built the regular way, are looming up to make us think we are coming alive again!

20 October 1976 Wednesday

LDYW Opening Social was tonight at the Stake Center in the form of a Halloween Party featuring three silent movies, chili, cider, and cookies. Sister Nada Bowen is the new YW President.

21 October 1976 Thursday

Primary began for the year's work at the Stake Center. Parents are requested to provide transportation over and back. Originally it was planned to hold Primary at the Multi-Purpose Room at the Elementary School in Sugar until we could meet at home, but this was ruled out and the Stake Center was the only solution.

23 October 1976 Saturday

Sister Loretta Johnson, a former resident, sent a lot of supplies to the first grade teachers. The rest of the teachers in our school likewise wanted to help out with patterns and things which were completely lost in the flood. A U-Haul trailer arrived and unloaded supplies for Grades 1-6, music, everything.

7 November 1976 Sunday

Brother and Sister Al Saunders have the distinction of being the first to move BACK into their new home in Sugar, which happened on November 5. It had been on the foundation for quite a while but water, electricity, etc. had not been available until that date. Theirs was the first new home moved into Sugar. The Brian Hart family, the Birds, had been in there ever since the flood, but this was the first to move back.

At this time, everything has been demolished on Main Street except the City Hall, Sugar Post Office, Melvin Bean's Hardware, the Hot Lunch Room, the High School, Whitefer's Real Estate Building on the South Side. The old Davenport Hatchery has been down several weeks, along with the Sugar Here, and all the buildings owned by Ansel Lyman directly east of the Here. Just this past week the former motel and adjacent buildings on the north side of Main Street was demolished and hauled away. So everything will be new. Every pioneer landmark is erased from the community with the exception of the portion of the Sugar Factory which is a fabric warehouse. All the first homes of pioneers in Sugar here had to be demolished. This week the foundation is being dug for the new Sugar Here directly east of where it was before. This is good news and a good note to end with. We are a wiser, humbler people for having experienced these past months. Our unity, love, and spirit for one another has deepened and grown. The Lord has blessed us with the preservation of our lives and will continue.

9/04