

FLASHBACK

Canal failure causes flooding in 1972

The Spokesman

100 YEARS AGO

June 8, 1922 — Cheese factory finished

The fine brick and cement building for the cheese factory to be operated by K Cheese company is just completed and the work of installing machinery will begin the first of the week.

The building is 32 by 62 feet and is of fireproof construction, and located conveniently for both receiving milk and shipping the finished product.

The machinery necessary to handle the business here cost \$5000 and will be up and running within the next 30 days.

75 YEARS AGO

June 12, 1947 — Betty, Pearl's Shoppe to open

Betty and Pearl's Friendly Sewing Shoppe, located at 627 D street, will open Monday, June 16, for business. Betty Calhoun and Pearl McDonald are the owners and announce that they have recently returned from Portland with a line of yardages.

They will specialize in dress

making, alterations, shirt making and tailoring. They also announced that free estimates will be given at the shop or by phone 268X.

Both of the owners have had previous experience in this line of work.

50 YEARS AGO

June 7, 1972 — A day for flooding, dedicating

Saturday will long be remembered around Central Oregon Irrigation District. That was the day a 75-foot section of canal Bank broke, pouring water over much of southeastern Bend. It also was the day COI's \$3.2 million flume replacement project was dedicated.

In photo, photographer William Van Allen captures Redmond's State Rep. Sam Johnson chatting with congressman Al Ullman, featured speaker at the dedication. And right, photographer Martha Stranahan records crews already repairing the damaged canal Saturday while dignitaries addressed a crowd of more than 100 persons.

Ullman said prospects appeared bright for funding improvements to existing irrigation projects, but uncertain for



See "A day for flooding, dedicating" story for details.

new projects. Claire A. Hill, vice president of CH2M-Hill, Redding, Calif., engineers for the project, remarked that the 6,000 feet of 10,000-foot-in-diameter steel pipe used to replace deteriorating wooden flume was the largest pipe in uses in Oregon.

25 YEARS AGO

June 11, 1997 — Authorities post reward for driver

Authorities searching for the pick up truck involved in a hit-and-run for fatality have offered a \$2,000 reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the driver who killed Sharon Dains.

The Deschutes County Sheriff's Department and Sheriff Employees Association each posted half of the reward offer, which investigators hope will produce the lead they need to resolve the case.



Archived Photo

Sheriff's officers are looking for a late 1970s Chevrolet or GMC pickup, reddish in color, with damage to the left front grill and headlight. The vehicle struck Dains from behind as the 26-year-old Redmond man was walking to work along South Canal Boulevard on May 28.

There were no new developments in the case as of Tuesday, but officers remained optimistic they will locate the hit-and-run vehicle and driver. "If it's a local truck, we'll

find it," said Capt. Pete Wanless, lead investigator for the sheriff's department.

Anyone with information about a pickup that fits the description of the suspect vehicle should call the sheriff's hotline at 388-6641.

At a news conference held last Tuesday to announce the reward, Wanless and Dains' grieving father and mother urged the hit-and-run driver to turn himself or herself in to authorities.

OFFBEAT OREGON HISTORY

Deadly 1964 tsunami damaged Oregon Coast

BY FINN J.D. JOHN
Offbeat Oregon

On the evening of March 23, 1964, Seaside resident Margaret Gammon hadn't been asleep more than an hour or two when she was awakened by howling.

It was the community fire siren, blaring at full blast without stopping. She looked at the clock. It was 11:30 p.m.

"I lay in bed thinking to myself, 'Why doesn't that fellow at the fire station get his big thumb off the siren button so we can all go back to sleep, and let the firemen take care of the fire?'" she recalled later, in an article for Oregon Historical Quarterly. "In just a few seconds the cars started zipping up our street toward the highway like the devil himself was on their tail. I thought it must be a tremendous fire, so I figured I'd get dressed and go watch it."

It didn't take long for Gammon to learn that it wasn't a fire. It was a tsunami — and it was almost upon her.

"When I got as far as the 12th Avenue bridge over the Necanicum River, the water was right under the decking, black and ominous, and covered with great chunks of white foam floating on the surface like huge ice cakes," she wrote. "I learned later that I had crossed over the 12th Avenue bridge at the very height of the tsunami."

It wasn't until the next morning that Gammon learned how lucky she'd been. Her neighborhood was high enough to stay out of reach of the waves. Others were not.

"Venice Park, a residential area just north of us and right on Neawanna Creek, had been hardest hit," she wrote. "Several houses had been wrecked completely by the more than four feet of water that swept through them. It tumbled autos like matchsticks, leaving them pinned against houses when the water receded. I noticed hundreds of tiny fish still alive and wriggling frantically in their efforts to get back into the tiny creek, now within its banks and more than 50 feet away from them. Water perhaps two feet deep had surged over Highway 101 north of Seaside at the junction of City Center route and the through route south."

The 1964 tsunami was launched by a massive event known as the "Good Friday Earthquake" epicentered in the ocean a few dozen miles off Valdez, Alaska. Measuring 9.2 on the Richter Scale, the quake was the strongest ever recorded on U.S. soil,

and the second strongest ever worldwide. It shook Southeast Alaska, including Anchorage, for nearly five minutes.

The quake itself carried a surprisingly low death count: just nine people were killed in it. But the tsunami the quake launched was another story. Nearby the epicenter, it was up to 220 feet high. It wiped out whole towns and Indian villages, including Valdez — which, although not completely destroyed, was damaged badly enough that residents opted to move and rebuild the whole town farther inland on higher ground. The tsunami killed a total of 120 people in Alaska.

Down along the West Coast, wave heights were smaller, but still high enough to be deadly. Twelve people died in Crescent City, Calif. In Oregon, Monte and Rita McKenzie and their four children were camping on the beach in a driftwood shelter on Beverly Beach State Park when the tsunami hit. Struggling in the churning surf and flying driftwood, Monte and Rita McKenzie struggled to hang onto their four chil-

dren, only to have all of them ripped away and carried out to sea. Louie, Bobby, Ricky, and Tammy McKenzie (ages 8, 7, 6, and 3 respectively) were drowned. They were the only tsunami deaths in Oregon.

But there was plenty of property damage, all up and down the coast.

In Neskowin, Kathleen Clark got a terrifyingly complete view of the entire tsunami cycle from the front window of a vacation rental she was staying in with her brother and boyfriend.

Recounting the story to The Oregonian's Lori Tobias, Clark said they had the window open and were enjoying the sounds of the surf when suddenly those sounds went away. The three young people looked at each other, baffled, then got up and looked out toward the sea.

The moonlight was shining on a vast expanse of wet sand. The ocean had retreated, literally beyond the reach of their sight in the moonlight.

"And then as we were watching, there was this wall of water coming at us," Clark told Tobias. "Just a straight wall. Like

the ocean had become vertical. It was a tremendous roar coming in. The water came into the little yard out front. We were just flabbergasted, just frozen in place. If the wave had been a foot higher, I bet it would have taken out the plate glass window."

All told, the earthquake and tsunami dealt out \$2.8 billion (in 2022 dollars) in damage, and killed 136 people. But scientists quickly figured out it could have been worse. A lot worse.

The majority of the tsunami deaths in 1964 were from com-

munities near the epicenter, in Alaska. There, waves hundreds of feet high slammed into the beaches within a few minutes of the earthquake that launched them. Most Oregon beaches got a far smaller, more attenuated version of the wave, arriving hours later.



Curb cuts matter.

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Discover more at: PlacemattersOregon.com

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Place Matters

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Adventist

Seventh Day Adventist

945 W. Glacier Ave.,
Redmond, OR

541-923-0301

Sabbath School 9:30 am
Worship 10:45 am

Baptist

Highland Baptist Church

3100 SW Highland Ave.,
Redmond

541-548-4161

Lead Pastor: Barry Campbell

Sunday Worship Services:

Blended - 8 & 9 am
Contemporary - 10:30 am
(Worship Center)

hbc Español - 10:30 am
(Youth Room)

*9 am & 10:30 am live-stream at:
www.hbcredmond.org

Family Night Wednesdays (March 30 – May 25)

5:30 pm - Free dinner in Gym
6 pm - Practical classes for all
ages

See website for a list of classes!

How can hbc pray for you?
prayer@hbcredmond.org

Roman Catholic

St Thomas Roman Catholic Church

1720 NW 19th Street
Redmond, Oregon 97756

541-923-3390

Father Todd Unger, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Weekdays 8:00 am

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm
First Saturday 8:00 am (English)

Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am
(English)
12:00 noon (Spanish)

Confessions on Wednesdays
From 4:00 to 5:45 pm and on
Saturdays From 3:00 to 4:30 pm

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