

River Edges Into West Salem, Flood Toll 6

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sprague

President Truman launched his campaign for election in his message to the second session of the 80th congress. It was an open appeal for votes and an obvious effort to put the republican majority in the congress on the spot. His major items were those relating to domestic politics, the before-Christmas message on the Marshall plan serving to cover that phase of foreign policy. The position which Truman takes on domestic issues is well left of center in the attempt to recapture the Roosevelt following and cut off recruits to the banner of Henry A. Wallace.

Thus the president comes out for tax reduction, hitherto a proposal on which republicans claimed a patent, but he made his tax recommendation double-barreled: Tax credits which would relieve some 10 million citizens of payment of federal income taxes, but rolling the treasury loss over on corporations. At once the president and his advisers hope to curry favor of the multitude of individuals both by lightening their tax burden and by jabbing the wicked corporations who have been reveling in lush profits. Bob Taft and Chairman Knutson will grind some molars over that Siamese twin of a tax plan.

On other issues Truman renews his former stand, opposing the Taft-Hartley law, asking for powers to impose rationing and price controls to stop inflation, a rise in minimum wages, national housing and health programs. Were Truman another Franklin Roosevelt he could muster a large following with these popular appeals. Lacking the Roosevelt dynamism he will probably fail to get what he asks and still be unable to capitalize fully on the political advantages of his position.

The message began—or at least stepped up into high tempo—the 1948 presidential campaign. From here on out it will be every man for himself and devil take the hindmost.

Highway Table

The Albany-Corvallis highway went under a slide and closed to traffic Wednesday night, late reports from state police headquarters in Salem indicated.

Some 20 highway closings had been reported earlier by the state highway department, including Highway 99-E at four places, a mile south of Canby, at Harrisburg, south of Eugene and south of Grants Pass.

The Oregon coast highway also was closed, and only one through north-south highway, The Dalles-California route, remained open.

Highway reports follow: South Umpqua bridge, 4 miles south of Roseburg on the Pacific highway, reported washed out Wednesday morning.

Columbia River highway, traffic slowed by slides 25 and 71 miles east of Portland but one-way traffic was restored after closure late Tuesday.

Cascade mountains—ice and snow expected.

Oregon Coast highway, closed between Coquille and Bandon.

Alsea highway, closed 27 miles west of Philomath by a slide.

Other roads closed include the South Santiam, Cascade, Woodburn-Estacada, Siuslaw, Junction City-Eugene secondary, Territorial, Rich and Son, Springfield-Creswell, Medford-Provolet, Kings Valley, Halney-Brownsville, Corvallis East Side and the old Pacific highway near Jefferson. No detours were available around the closed areas.

U. S. FLEET TO VISIT ROME

ROME, Thursday, Jan. 8 (AP)—The news agency Ansa reported today from Taranto that the aircraft carrier Midway, three cruisers and 10 destroyers of the United States navy's Mediterranean fleet were expected to anchor there from January 13 to 17.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"I left mine in the baggage car."

3 States Affected By Floods

By the Associated Press

Six drownings were counted in Oregon early today as floods raced through western Oregon, cutting main roads in a score of places, inundating scattered stretches of lowlands and leaving an estimated 2,000 homeless.

The flood was receding in the Eugene area by the ever-rising Willamette river, fed by swollen branch rivers and streams all along the valley, was rushing toward flood crests at Albany and Salem.

Drowning victims included a 20-months-old boy, in a drainage ditch eight miles east of Stayton (details on page 2); a three-year-old boy Arthur Boyd, in a Eugene drainage ditch; Norland D. Wilson, 24, drowned while fording Olalla creek west of Roseburg on horseback; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lackey and Mrs. Ross Cooper, all caught by swirling waters of the Rogue river as they were crossing the river on a cable car at Illabe.

Rising 6 inches per hour. Rising at a rate of six inches an hour, the Willamette was near the level of the Salem-West Salem state highway bridge early today. The Pacific highway was inundated and closed in at least four places.

The 2,000 homeless are mostly in the Eugene-Springfield area, where more than 1,000 of them were sheltered in public buildings last night. In many other sectors families were leaving their homes for safety, including 27 West Salem families (story on page 2).

Damage is expected to run into millions of dollars, but army engineers doubted it would equal the devastation of the 1945 and 1943 floods.

Communities Affected. Almost every community of the upper Willamette valley was affected, either by flood waters, broken communications, power failures or severed highways.

Power failed in many places, particularly along the Oregon coast. Sawmills at Coos Bay shut down when power failed. There were disruptions in telephone service.

The crest of the churning Willamette river, which usually brings most of the devastation in Oregon, still had to flow downstream. The river was forecast to crest at 8.7 feet above flood stage at Corvallis early Thursday, 7.2 feet beyond flood stage at Albany early Thursday, and 10 feet above flood stage at Salem early Friday.

No Flood for Portland. But those towns fewer persons live in the lowlands than in hard-pressed Eugene. In the metropolitan of Portland flood stage is not expected to be exceeded.

More than three Oregon points more than dozen inches of rain fell during 24 hours. The worst spot was Butte Falls on the Rogue river of southern Oregon, 4.8 inches.

A score of communities were virtually isolated by rising waters. At Reedsport, on the southern Oregon coast, a flash flood of two feet of water on downtown streets. The citizenry chugged down the street in motor boats and hip boots to sandbag their doors.

Water High in Idaho. Water ran two feet deep through the main street of Princeton, Idaho. It invaded the University of Idaho veterans' village until ditching drained it out, and flooded some business establishments in Moscow, Idaho.

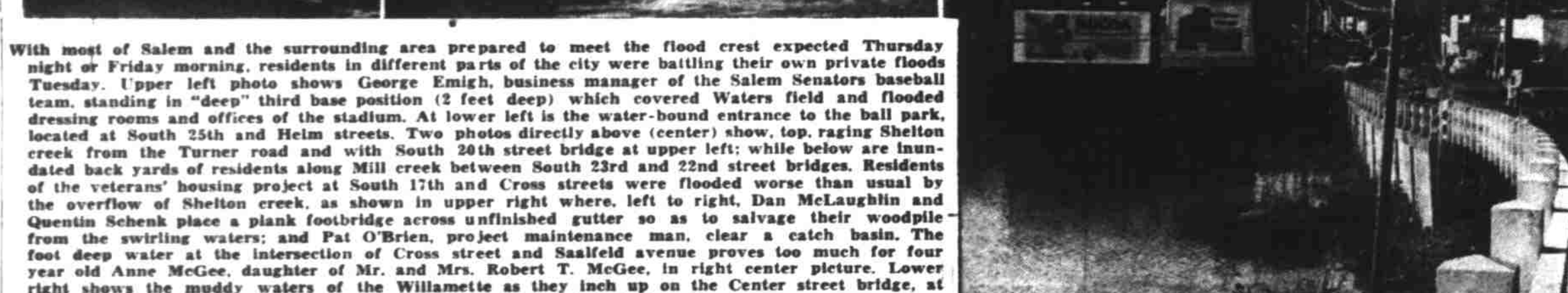
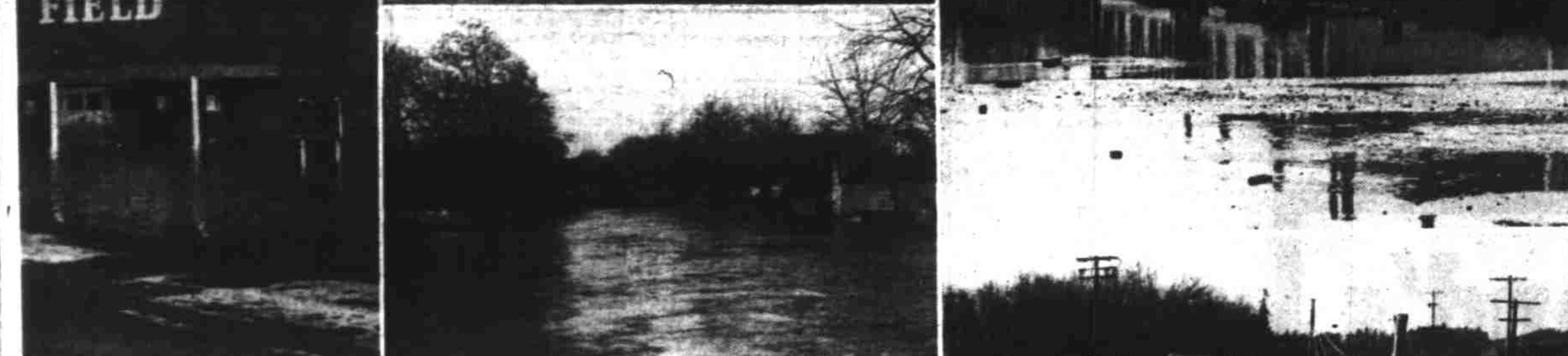
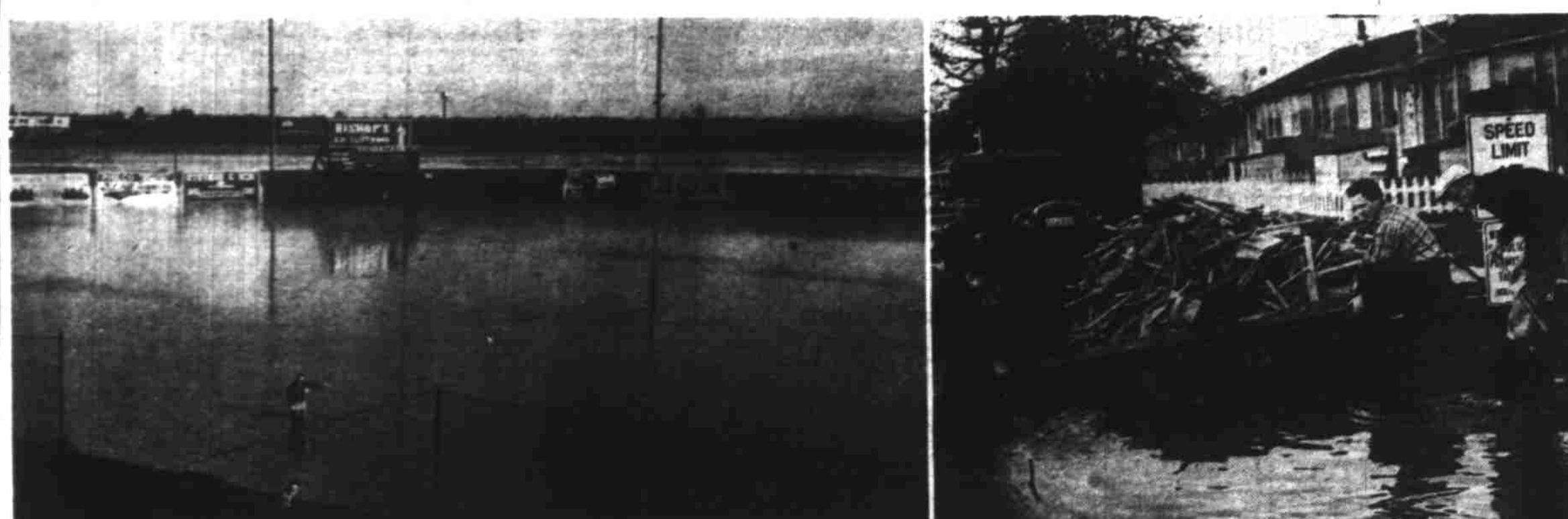
The North Palouse river rose over the bridge at Elberton, Wash., and isolated the town. Nobody could go to work in nearby Colfax.

A sternwheeler struck a submerged log in the turbulent Columbia and sank, after the 14 men aboard were removed to another craft. An escort carrier broke loose in the Willamette river at Portland, and threatened briefly to ram one of the city's main bridges.

Along the lowlands, from the California border to Pocatello, Idaho, farmers mover livestock to higher country. Dwellers near Johnson creek, which overflowed in the city of Portland, waded into grocery stores. Street sections in Portland's fashionable west hills washed away.

Railroad service was harassed. The Union Pacific no sooner fixed a slide on its main line along the Columbia river than it lost a section to washouts on the Plummer, Idaho, branch. The Southern Pacific's line near Grants Pass was slowed by high water. A branch line of the SP was cut by a slide between Detroit, Ore., and Mill City, Ore., and the Spokane, Portland & Seattle line between Sweet Home and Lebanon, Ore., was washed out.

'Private' Floods in Salem Cause Inconvenience, Precede Willamette Overflow



With most of Salem and the surrounding area prepared to meet the flood crest expected Thursday night or Friday morning, residents in different parts of the city were battling their own private floods Tuesday. Upper left photo shows George Emigh, business manager of the Salem Senators baseball team, standing in "deep" third base position (2 feet deep) which covered Waters field and flooded dressing rooms and offices of the stadium. At lower left is the water-bound entrance to the ball park, located at South 25th and Helm streets. Two photos directly above (center) show, top, raging Shelton creek from the Turner road and with South 20th street bridge at upper left; while below are inundated back yards of residents along Mill creek between South 23rd and 22nd street bridges. Residents of the veterans' housing project at South 17th and Cross streets were flooded worse than usual by the overflow of Shelton creek, as shown in upper right where, left to right, Dan McLaughlin and Quentin Schenk place a plank footbridge across unfinished gutter so as to salvage their woodpile from the swirling waters; and Pat O'Brien, project maintenance man, clear a catch basin. The foot deep water at the intersection of Cross street and Saalfield avenue proves too much for four year old Anne McGee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. McGee, in right center picture. Lower right shows the muddy waters of the Willamette as they inch up on the Center street bridge, at the West Salem approach. (Photos by Don Dill, Statesman staff photographer.)

President Urges Yearly Tax Cut of \$40 per Taxpayer and Dependent

Increase in Corporation Tax Would Make Up Loss in Federal Revenues

780 Persons On Sinking Russian Ship

Behind the Iron Curtain

The Russian Journal

Animal Crackers

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Weather table with columns for Max, Min, Precip and rows for Salem, Portland, San Francisco, Chicago, New York.

Closure Of Bridge Held Near

Closing of the Salem-West Salem highway bridge early today, as the Willamette river reached Edgewater street in West Salem and neared the west end of the bridge. State highway crews with blade equipment stood by to halt traffic as soon as the danger mark—a river height of 26.5 feet with water covering the west bridge approach—was reached. A Statesman reading of the official river height gauge near the foot of Chemawa street showed a river level just over 25 feet at 2 a. m.

The Willamette river was within three feet of the Salem-West Salem highway bridge early today, as swollen tributaries up the valley rolled a flood crest toward Albany and Salem. General river flooding in this area is expected by Friday morning.

Four families were evacuated Wednesday from Brown's and Minto's islands in the Willamette river opposite Salem and other families near the river banks here set about preparing their basements and homes for possible flooding. Many streets, basements and low fields were under water Tuesday night and Wednesday.

At last Salem river reading, 9 p. m. Wednesday, the Willamette was three feet above flood stage, at a 23-foot height. A 26.5 foot level would close the state highway bridge here. U. S. weather bureau prediction is for a crest of 28 feet early Friday.

Army engineers here from Portland and operating at the local Red Cross office along with the Marion county chapter's disaster relief committee said last night they expected up to 1 1/2 feet of water to cover the west approach to the West-Salem bridge this morning.

Rescue Crews Organize. The Red Cross and engineer-offices were organizing rescue crews and offering information on flood conditions at the downtown State street office, with telephones at 9277, 2-5589 and 2-5505.

In the event the bridge is closed to highway traffic, as appeared likely from this prediction, the Southern Pacific Railroad Co. was ready to provide immediate shuttle passenger service between Salem and West Salem over the railroad bridge, State Public Utilities Commissioner George Flagg was assured Wednesday afternoon.

River Rising Fast. The river rose five feet at Salem between 8 a. m. (when an 18-foot level was recorded) and 9 p. m., when official river reader Lester R. Thomas made the day's final report. It was 21 feet high at 4:30 p. m. and 23 feet by 9 p. m.

After a surprisingly clear morning Wednesday, the rain which had been falling steadily for two days resumed, and weather forecasts indicated rainfall will continue today.

But this new rainfall, the weather bureau announced last night, will not affect crest predictions because the river stages at such upper river points as Eugene and Harrisburg were already receding last night.

Showers Due Today. A total of .75 of an inch of rain fell Wednesday, but the weather bureau predicted only scattered light showers will fall today.

City Engineer J. H. Davis reported that nearly all city sewers were cleared and functioning normally by Wednesday afternoon. Capitola and Hollywood districts were hit hardest. Many basements in that area were still flooded Wednesday afternoon but were improving as the sewers carried water off the streets in that area. Several streets in the Rosedale section also flooded Tuesday night but all were clear by Wednesday afternoon.

Water In Hospital. Knee-deep water which flowed into the basement of Salem Memorial hospital Tuesday night forced hospital authorities to move the institution's laboratory up to the second floor Wednesday. Little damage was done because nearly all property on the lower floor was moved up before the water seeped in, it was reported.

The Ford street bridge over Shelton ditch was damaged as the water in that stream continued to rise later Wednesday night, Davis reported. A section of piling gave way under the rushing water and Davis feared the entire bridge might be lost before morning.

(Additional details on page 2)

Behind the Iron Curtain

That's where readers of The Oregon Statesman will be taken in a gripping series of 15 stories, starting in this newspaper Wednesday, January 14, which make up John Steinbeck's outstanding work entitled

The Russian Journal

Documented with photographs by Robert Capa, the series obtained by The New York Herald-Tribune's team of correspondents is regarded as the finest non-political reporting yet to come out of the Soviet union. Steinbeck and Capa side-step all political implications to portray the everyday Russian and every day in Russia. They avoid conclusions to present facts—in The Russian Journal, starting Wednesday, January 14, in

