

COLUMBIA FLOOD CREST PASSES PORTLAND

Weather

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	80	47	.00
Portland	77	52	.00
San Francisco	69	52	trace
Chicago	81	54	.08
New York	78	59	.09

Willamette river 2.6 feet.

FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Morning fog and low cloudiness with a few late afternoon showers. High today 78, low tonight 48. Moderate winds in afternoon will hinder crop dusting operations.

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55 Vanport Waifs Unclaimed; Gives Hint of Death Toll

PORTLAND, Ore., June 1—(AP)—The first indications of the possible number of dead in the Vanport disaster came tonight in a Red Cross announcement that 55 children were unclaimed after two days of search for the parents.

The Red Cross held out hope, however, that many of the parents yet would turn up among the thousands of refugees scattered through

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Soraque

A woman called up Mayor Elfstrom and expressed her vigorous opposition to instituting daylight saving time. She thought it would be interfering with divine law and might invite such calamities as drought or flood. One ready answer comes for that. We have had all manner of disasters under standard time, so DST would hardly augment the number or variety.

The good lady was mistaken about clock-tampering as interference with God's law. The clock is merely a manmade device to measure time. One rotation of the earth on its axis makes up a day, and for convenience this is divided into 24 equal parts we call hours. We could have one clock-time for all the world, but it has seemed more convenient to divide the globe into time zones. Since the sun travels (as we say) 15 degrees in one hour clock-time is moved back one hour for each 15 degrees of latitude.

At that there is considerable flexibility in the boundary of time zones. Changes are made at railroad division points nearest to the correct latitude, which makes the line north and south across the country quite wavy.

Actually we could accomplish the same result in having the "extra" hour for the end of the day if only we would start the day's work an hour earlier. But it is easier to change the clock than to change human habits. Our living is geared to the clock, so when the clock is moved forward or backward an hour we still regulate our day by the conventional hours.

Senate Passes Bill to Dispose Of Camp White

State officials here expressed satisfaction Tuesday afternoon when Representative Harris Elfstrom telegraphed from Washington, D.C., that the house had approved a bill placing the Camp White hospital facility under the federal veterans' administration. The senate previously passed the bill.

Officials added that this action by congress probably would defeat the initiative bill, sponsored by State Sen. Lew Wallace of Multnomah county, democratic nominee for governor, directing the state to take over the hospital for use as a state institution.

A bill at the 1947 legislature providing that the state should take over the hospital for use as a mental institution was vetoed by the late Governor Earl Snell. Snell said he based his veto on a report of a committee which inspected the hospital and found it inadequate for institutional needs.

Animal Crackers



"No! This is not a literary circle!"

Richard F. Gordon, director of Pacific area disaster services, said 2,500 of the 5,328 Vanport families were accounted for through registrations at the Red Cross.

Others United
Some of the other families undoubtedly have become united without Red Cross help, Gordon said.

The Red Cross still had no list of missing. Gordon said efforts to trace all not registered would continue, but definite results might not be obtained for days.

Survivors said they expected the heaviest loss of life to be among children, many of whom were caught at play by water that swelled in from a breached dike.

Loss of Life Feared
The fact that 55 children still were unclaimed two days after the disaster led to speculation that loss of lives among adults might be heavy.

The Red Cross cautioned, however, that registration was far from complete, and said additional hundreds undoubtedly would sign up in succeeding days.

Jews, Arabs Accept Month Palestine Truce

LAKE SUCCESS, June 1—(AP)—The Jews and Arabs today announced acceptance of a United Nations plea for a four-weeks armistice in Palestine.

However their replies to the U. N. left unanswered such questions as when the shooting would stop. Israel's acceptance was handed to Secretary-General Trygve Lie approximately four hours ahead of

TEL AVIV, Israel, June 2
Israeli military headquarters said Egyptian troops and artillery attacked at two places this morning in violation of a cease fire order.

The announcement said the Egyptians attacked the Jewish settlement of Negba in the south and that planes bombed the village of Huda on the central front.

The security council's 6 p. m. (EST) deadline for reply. The Jews followed this up by issuing ceasefire orders to their troops, effective at the hour (3 a. m. Wednesday, Israeli time), on condition the Arabs took the same step.

The 7-nation Arab league's decision to accept the U. N. plan was given to Lie two hours ahead of the deadline but it made no mention of a cease-fire hour. The council had asked the two parties to agree to the proposals by the appointed hour. The Arab reply left open the actual time of laying down arms.

Also unanswered were the diplomatic and political questions as to whether the acceptances were unconditional. The Arabs said a detailed reply would be sent to the security council.

An Israeli spokesman insisted that his government's acceptance was unconditional. However, the Jews stipulated that they were making five assumptions about the plan, including one that the food supply route to Jerusalem would be opened.

17 Escape as Plane Burns

OMAK, Wash., June 1—(AP)—A national guard plane with 17 aboard crash-landed and burned today without loss of life. One man was trampled in the rush from the flaming craft.

The plane, a C-47 out of McChord field, took off about 5:30 p. m. (PST) to fly a group of national guardsmen back to Spokane from flood duty here. Just after the takeoff one guardsman noted an engine was afire. The pilot was notified and attempted to return to the field, two miles away. He panicked the burning craft to the landing strip and the men got safely out. The fire destroyed the plane.

SALEM PRECIPITATION (From Sept. 1 to June 2)

This Year	Last Year	Average
65.78	51.78	50.97



Dikes crumpled like matchsticks as the Columbia river went on its greatest rampage in modern history this week. The above aerial photo, taken exclusively for The Oregon Statesman shortly after noon yesterday, shows the focal flood points in the Portland area. The pictures look to the northwest. Shown are (1) the Interstate bridge across the Columbia's regular channel; (2) Jantzen beach, its roller-coaster barely visible to the right of the numeral; (3) what was Vanport, once Oregon's second - largest city (the original breakthrough was just out of the picture above the numeral) and also showing the submerged stockyards to the right in the same area; (4) Monday night's break-through of Denver avenue which let the onslaught into plush Portland Meadows race track and environs and where a car of the Portland General Electric company was swept away when it hit the gap; (5) the Portland Meadows grandstand, and (6) the Tuesday break-through of Union avenue which cut the final approach to the Interstate bridge and let the water complete its great semi-circle sweep back to the slough paralleling its regular channel. (Statesman aerial pictures also on page 3).

Panoramic Portrayal of Flood Awesome from Air

By Wendell Webb
Managing Editor, The Statesman

ABOVE THE COLUMBIA, June 1 at 1 p. m. — Photographers have done a valiant job to portray the mighty tragedy of flood but only a first-hand view can bring full realization of its awfulness. And then it can't be adequately described.

Right now we are flying westward in bright sunshine above the Columbia. To the inexperienced eye, its actual channel is hard to locate.

Water spreads through clumps of trees for miles. Roof tops of farm homes and barns look like rafts. Looming to the left is Portland's deserted airport, water lapping at its bordering road. Dark, widening fingers on the clay soil show the field's northwest corner slowly succumbing to the flood. Across the massive river two rusty destroyers are moored helplessly at a dock, now well out into the stream.

Further on to the left we spot the Portland Meadows race track -- or, rather, the grandstand. The track is under several feet of water. The huge wall of an amphitheatre sticks up from the muddy mass nearby.

Jantzen Beach
Then comes Jantzen Beach, the play spot of the northwest. The gray roller-coaster points gauntly toward the sky. Its base is well-buried and only a submarine could negotiate its once-thrilling dips.

Behind Jantzen beach to the south is the flood's most grotesque victim -- the once-large city of Vanport. A few water tanks rear 'their heads from the murky lake. Clumps of huge barracks are scattered here and there, their roofs at crazy angles and debris clinging all around like hair on great floating cocoanuts.

Some of the second-story windows barely are visible, looking like the half-opened eyes of a floundering sea-monster.

Breaks Plainly Visible
The breaks in the dikes are plainly visible. First to the west is one which let the swirling waters drown Vanport late Sunday. A mile or so to the east a huge gap in Denver avenue shows how Portland Meadows succumbed to catastrophe late last night, and then through Union avenue another break, apparently still crumbling, tells all too well what happened in the wee hours today to complete the destruction on the river's south side. These three muddy-watered areas from the air look much like half a pumpkin pie, marked into three parts with strips of chocolate frosting for roads, and liberally sprinkled with pepper, sugar and every other shade of grainy spice which once were homes and industries.

To the south, the haze of Portland settles peacefully and the Willamette ribbons its way through the city apparently without furor

Salem was high and dry, but still very much in the Oregon flood scene Tuesday.

Red Cross here changed its emphasis from food and clothing to cash contributions and volunteer drivers for relief in the Vanport flood area.

Salem's airport was a hub of activity, with all Portland airline passenger and airmail operations centering here. (Story on page 12)

28 Marines, Sailors Lost as Launch Sinks

NORFOLK, Va., June 1—(AP)—The navy announced tonight that 28 sailors and marines were believed lost in the swamping of a launch in Hampton Roads.

Eighteen navy personnel and 10 marines, the navy said, were unaccounted for. The men were attached to a 12-ship task force and were among an estimated 90 men swept into the choppy seas last night when their launch swamped while they were returning from liberty to the force flagship, the aircraft carrier Kearsarge.

The 50-foot open launch was swamped only several hundred yards from the flattop which was anchored in Norfolk Roads two miles off the Norfolk naval station.

The disaster delayed sailing of the task force from 5 a. m. until 4:30 p. m. (EST). The force is going to the Mediterranean to relieve a similar squadron.

Several other launches and picket boats sped to the scene of the accident, which was witnessed from the carrier, and rescued 65 men.

Red Cross Changes Emphasis on Flood Relief Contributions from Food, Clothing to Money

By Conrad Frange
Staff Writer, The Statesman

Salem was high and dry, but still very much in the Oregon flood scene Tuesday.

Red Cross here changed its emphasis from food and clothing to cash contributions and volunteer drivers for relief in the Vanport flood area.

Salem's airport was a hub of activity, with all Portland airline passenger and airmail operations centering here. (Story on page 12)

Salvation army and other local agencies were in the thick of relief activity or standing by in readiness. At the statehouse messages arrived from distant points offering aid. (Story on page 7).

Several truckloads of food and clothing were dispatched from here to the flood area Monday and Tuesday. Clothing collection at the veterans housing colony alone was valued at \$100,000.

City Council to Vote On Daylight Saving

Elfstrom to Recommend Plan Tonight

Possibility of daylight saving time for Salem by Friday was seen yesterday by Mayor R. L. Elfstrom who called a special city council meeting at which he will recommend the time change.

The aldermen will meet at 8 o'clock tonight, just prior to an earlier scheduled city budget meeting for the budget committee which includes the mayor, seven aldermen and eight other citizens. The meeting will be at Salem Chamber of Commerce hall.

Several of the aldermen were reported Tuesday to favor the switch to daylight saving time, and the mayor himself said the flood of inquiries at the Salem Chamber of Commerce and local businesses indicates general favor for such a change.

Elfstrom will request that the change in time be made at 1 a. m. Friday.

Would Cut Confusion
The time change for Salem would eliminate considerable confusion resulting from the new time in Portland and other parts of the state. Telephone calls for the correct time, for example, bring Salem telephone users the time reading in daylight saving time.

Manager Harry V. Collins of this district of Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. said this happens in Salem because the station answering time calls (at 2-8900) is in Portland, the calls from Salem going directly into the Portland office.

Only A Oppose
An informal poll on daylight saving at Salem Kiwanis club's luncheon attended by more than 100 Tuesday showed only four hands raised in opposition to a change to that time in Salem.

The state board of control, meanwhile, decided to keep hands off time changing, and decreed that state offices would use the time system operating in communities where the offices are located. This indicated that the many state offices here would go on daylight saving immediately, if the city council ordered the change for municipal purposes.

U.S. Note to Reds Renews Trieste Issue Demands

WASHINGTON, June 1—(AP)—The United States made another attempt today to get talks going with Russia over a trouble spot in New Mexico to provide homes for the refugees.

Plans were being drawn up for another housing project as a possible replacement for Vanport. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation in Spokane and Portland said loans would be made to assist flood victims.

Levees Weaken, Crumble

By James H. Ferguson

PORTLAND, Ore., June 2—(Wednesday)—(AP)—Cresting waters of the Columbia river's worst flood battered at dikes of the lower valley early this morning as high tide pushed in from the Pacific ocean.

More dikes began crumbling before nightfall last night and army engineers listed the entire lower valley protective works as critical—but still holding.

All now threatened areas have been evacuated since Monday night.

The peril came to the lower valley as the Pacific northwest reeled under blows of its greatest disaster.

Red Cross officials announced late today that it has not accounted for about half of the 5,328 families whose homes were destroyed in the Memorial day tragedy that smashed Vanport within minutes.

How many perished in the Sunday afternoon flash flood is still a mystery.

Damages Soar
Some 50,000 are homeless in four states and property damage has soared to multi-millions of dollars. The army corps of engineers says it is "hopeless at this time" to attempt probable loss to property, estimates.

The destruction stretches for 1,000 miles from the headwaters of the great river in the Canadian Rockies to the ocean. The river is due to remain above flood level for several weeks.

Officials believe the crest has moved downstream from the Portland-Vancouver, Wash., metropolitan area. The river rose to 29.9 feet in Portland at noon yesterday and held for over four hours. Then after today's peak until Saturday, it dropped to 29.3 and an hour later was down to 29.7 feet.

To Remain Stationary
Elmer Fisher, the weather bureau river forecaster, said, however, that the river stage will remain at about 29.7 feet for the next two days and not be two feet under today's peak until Saturday.

The surging river, which has flooded farm lands and towns the length of its 1,000-mile course from Canada, northern Idaho and Montana, now will throw its full weight against dikes protecting rich dairy land in the 100 miles from Portland to the sea.

If they hold, the worst will be over today. For days to come, however, the river will be a threat.

15,000 Evacuated
An estimated 15,000 fled to higher ground as the army ordered evacuation of districts behind weakened dikes on the last 100-mile stretch of the river.

One of these dikes gave way last night, a 12-ft. breach flooding a small area near Westport, Ore. Army engineers said only a few farms were in the area, and all persons have been evacuated before the dike broke.

In the entire Columbia basin there were an estimated 50,000 homeless. At least 23 were dead, apart from Vanport.

So precarious was the condition of the dikes that engineers feared the work of a ship might collapse them. The army ordered all craft off the river from Portland to the ocean—100 miles away. The river will remain closed to shipping at least three days, Col. O. E. Walsh, district engineer, said.

Truman Orders Aid
President Truman ordered full federal aid for the stricken area. He asked recommendations for additional legislation to meet the emergency.

The Red Cross directed relief workers to do anything poured in from volunteers. Thousands took refuge in churches and schools. Conferences were expected shortly between state and federal agencies on housing—the biggest immediate problem.

Another dike break Monday added to the misery and search. The water at Vanport crashed through a fill into a large area to the east. Vanport apartments floated through the gap, some smashing to pieces. Bodies—if any—were scattered so widely it was feared they might never be recovered.

Portlanders Praised
The Red Cross praised Portlanders for aid given refugees.

Still to feel the brunt of the water downstream are Woodland, Kelso, Kalama, and Longview, Wash., and Rainier and Clatskanie, Ore. The water already was into Woodland, Kalama, South Kelso and Clatskanie. The towns were evacuated without loss of life. No damage was expected in the main part of Kelso or at Longview.

Three hundred miles to the north a separate flood ripped through British Columbia's Fraser River valley. Premier Byron Johnson declared a state of emergency there. Property damage was listed at \$20,000,000 in the valley. Conditions were improving, however, as the Fraser river run-off began easing.

Relief Funds Boosted
At Portland the Red Cross said its relief funds were being increased from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000. The federal housing authority said it was bringing in trailers from as far away as Arizona and New Mexico to provide homes for the refugees.

Plans were being drawn up for another housing project as a possible replacement for Vanport. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation in Spokane and Portland said loans would be made to assist flood victims.