

OUT OF THE VAULT

# Dam break demolishes town of Rock Creek

By RENEE STRUTHERS  
East Oregonian

A dam break 22 miles west of Baker City in June of 1917 demolished the town of Rock Creek. No one was killed, but damage to buildings and livestock and crop losses ran into the thousands of dollars. The town never recovered.

The first inkling the residents of the tiny burg of Rock Creek, in northeast Oregon, had of impending danger on June 27, 1917, was a wall of onrushing water barreling toward town at 8:45 a.m. Trees 75 feet long were tossed end over end as the flood carried tons of debris down the canyon toward the lowlands.

Rock Creek citizens saw the water

coming and moved to higher ground but the town itself was flattened, losing the pool hall, church, hotel, store, blacksmith shop and lodge hall as well as many smaller buildings. As the canyon widened and leveled out, the flood slowed and little damage resulted in the lowlands near Haines, but debris and animal carcasses were deposited up to three miles downstream.

By 2 p.m. officials investigating the cause of the flood determined that the Killmacue Lake dam had broken in the mountainous region west of Baker. The exit of the lake was dammed in 1917 to facilitate additional irrigation storage for local farmers, and the lake was full to the top of the dam. A strong western wind blew up the day of the disaster, whip-

ping up waves and crowding the water over the dam until it breached, releasing 12 million gallons of water on the unsuspecting valley below. When the dam was inspected, it was found a section of the dam 40 feet wide and 10 feet deep had broken.

Some residents speculated that the dam had been blown up. A laborer named Gray was arrested by officials of the company owning the dam, but he provided a solid alibi and was released.

The damage inflicted on the once-bustling town of Rock Creek, the decline of the mining industry in the area and the advent of the automobile meant the residents had little incentive to rebuild. A township remains just outside of Haines, but no incorporated town exists.

ODDS & ENDS

## Man says emotional support alligator helps depression

YORK HAVEN, Pa. (AP) — A Pennsylvania man says his emotional support alligator helps him deal with his depression.

Joie Henney, 65, said his registered emotional support animal named Wally likes to snuggle and give hugs, despite being a 5-foot-long alligator. The York Haven man said he received approval from his doctor to use Wally as his emotional support animal after not wanting to go on medication for depression, he told Philly.com.

"I had Wally, and when I came home and was around him, it was all OK," he said. "My doctor knew about Wally and figured it works, so why not?"

Wally was rescued from outside Orlando at 14 months old and is still growing; Henney said Wally could be 16 feet long one day. Henney says Wally eats chicken wings and shares an indoor plastic pond with a smaller rescue alligator named Scrappy.

Wally, who turns 4 this year, is a big teddy bear, in Henney's words. The cold-blooded reptile likes to rest his snout on Henney's, and "he likes to give hugs," he said.

The alligator has never bitten anyone and is even afraid of cats, according to Henney.



Joie Henney lifts his emotional support animal, Wally, up on a table on Jan. 14, 2019, to give a presentation at the SpiriTrust Lutheran Village in York, Pa.

Henney acknowledged that Wally is still a dangerous wild animal and could probably tear his arm off, but says he's never been afraid of him.

Henney's background also indicates a comfort with creatures like Wally. He hosted a show called "Joie Henney's Outdoors" on ESPN Outdoors from 1989 to 2000, according to the *York*

*Daily Record*.

Henney frequently takes Wally out for meet-and-greets at places like senior centers and minor-league baseball games.

"He's just like a dog," Henney told a woman at a recent outing to a senior center. "He wants to be loved and petted."

DEAR ABBY

## Sibling sees signs of abuser in teen who hits her

**Dear Abby:** When I read the column about the warning signs of an abuser in your archives, I was scared to realize that my older brother is one. He has most of the qualities you pointed out except for the sex stuff.



JEANNE PHILLIPS  
ADVICE

He just turned 14, and he has just started dating. That got me thinking. If one day he moves in with someone or gets married, how am I going to warn the girl to watch out? I'm being hit, and I have things thrown at me all the time, and I don't want anyone else to experience that. My parents have tried to get him professional help, but it hasn't worked. Please help. — **Bruised Sister in San Francisco**

**Dear Sister:** I'm glad you wrote. You should not have to tolerate being your brother's punching bag, and your parents should not allow you to be abused. Because your parents are unable to control him and get him the help he clearly needs to control his emotions, tell a counselor at school about the violence you are experiencing. Because he has left bruises, have

a friend photograph them. The counselor can inform the proper authorities so he gets the help he apparently needs.

**Dear Abby:** There is a woman in our group who complains constantly about her weight and keeps asking for our reassurance that she's not overweight. She's actually an appropriate size for her height and maybe even a little too thin, but she thinks she is fat.

The rest of us are somewhat overweight and struggle trying to lose, so you can imagine how we feel when she goes on about this. She doesn't hang around with women her size, and she's competitive and insecure in many ways. We all care for her a lot because, other than this, she's a caring and supportive friend. She reads your column, so I'm hoping she'll read this and realize how much it bothers us. — **Chubby Friend in the South**

**Dear Chubby:** Dream on! Very few people see a letter in my column and realize it is aimed at them. Because your friend's constant need for reassurance makes the rest of you

uncomfortable, the person closest to her needs to tell her the subject of weight is now off-limits and why.

The woman may suffer from body dysmorphia, a condition in which the sufferer doesn't perceive her body as it actually is. People with body dysmorphia will see a fat person reflected in the mirror even if they are anorexic. It should also be suggested that the person with whom to discuss her concerns about being too heavy is her doctor.

**Dear Abby:** I faked a secret admirer. It's getting me a lot of attention, but I did it because I wanted to make my crush jealous. He thinks I'm faking, and I'm pretty sure he also thinks I'm needy and selfish. Now I don't know what to do. Can you help? — **Secretly Lying in Texas**

**Dear Secretly Lying:** I'll try. When a technique doesn't work, it's time to change course. Quit talking about a secret admirer. If you are asked about him, just say, "It's over" — which is less embarrassing than "The jig is up." Why your crush would call you selfish, I can't guess. But if he asks you what happened, my advice is to say, "I like you better." That's the truth.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**On Jan. 26, 1998,** President Bill Clinton forcefully denied having an affair with a former White House intern, telling reporters, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky."

**In 1784,** in a letter to his daughter Sarah, Benjamin Franklin expressed unhappiness over the choice of the bald eagle as the symbol of America, and stated his own preference: the turkey.

**In 1788,** the first European settlers in Australia, led by Capt. Arthur Phillip, landed in present-day Sydney.

**In 1837,** Michigan became the 26th state.

**In 1870,** Virginia rejoined the Union.

**In 1939,** principal photography began for David O. Selznick's movie version of "Gone with the Wind."

**In 1942,** the first Amer-

ican Expeditionary Force to head to Europe during World War II arrived in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

**In 1962,** the United States launched Ranger 3 to land scientific instruments on the moon — but the probe ended up missing its target by more than 22,000 miles.

**In 1988,** Australians celebrated the 200th anniversary of their country as a grand parade of tall ships re-enacted the voyage of the first European settlers. The Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Phantom of the Opera" opened at Broadway's Majestic Theater.

**In 1992,** Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton, appearing with his wife, Hillary, on CBS' "60 Minutes," acknowledged "causing pain in my marriage," but said past problems were not relevant to the campaign.

**In 1993,** Vaclav Havel was elected president of the newly formed Czech Republic.

**In 2003,** Secretary of State Colin Powell, citing Iraq's lack of cooperation with U.N. inspectors, said he'd lost faith in the inspectors' ability to conduct a definitive search for banned weapons programs.

**In 2005,** A U.S. Marine helicopter crashed in western Iraq, killing 30 Marines and a Navy medic aboard.

A man parked his SUV on railroad tracks in Glendale, California, setting off a crash of two commuter trains that killed 11 people. (The SUV's driver, Juan Alvarez, was convicted of murder and sentenced to 11 consecutive life terms.)

**Thought for Today:** "My experience of the world is that things left to themselves don't get right." — *T.H. Huxley, English biologist and author (1825-1895).*

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## 7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 makeup for eyelashes (7)	_____
2 place to care for sick folks (9)	_____
3 large, printed handkerchief (8)	_____
4 practice of having one mate (8)	_____
5 Italian lady (7)	_____
6 outperform your expectations (11)	_____
7 emperor in Tenochtitlan (9)	_____

RY	GAMY	DAN	MON	INF
CHI	TEZ	MAS	GN	SI
MONO	EVE	IRMA	ORA	OVE
BAN	CARA	UMA	RA	NA

Today's Answers: 1. MASCARA 2. INFIRMARY 3. BANDANNA 4. MONOGAMY 5. SIGNORA 6. OVERACHIEVE 7. MONTZUMMA

## WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Five months  □ □ □ □
- Four pieces of furniture  □ □ □ □
- Four parts of the eye  □ □ □ □
- Comedy duo Bud and Lou  □ □
- DVD: \_\_\_\_\_ Video \_\_\_\_\_  □ □

Answers to Saturday's puzzle: AUGUST MARCH APRIL JUNE JULY / CHAIR / TABLE DESK SOFA / RETINA PUPIL LENS IRIS / ARBOLTO COSTELLO / DIGITAL DISC

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J R E T I N A J H B L C  
B U V L E N S C T I S L  
C L L R T J R S R I K A  
R I I Y A U P D S E T  
I P R J M G A N E S L I  
A U I Z U V X D E O B G  
H P S A B B O T T F A I  
C O S T E L L O K A T D

DAYS GONE BY

### 100 Years Ago From the East Oregonian Jan. 26-27, 1919

One of the freaks of the recent fire at The Peoples Warehouse is that some of the canned goods boiled from the heat. Much of the stock shows evidence of having cooked. Macaroni, first treated to a shower of water from the fire hose and then warmed by the fire, is in a partially cooked condition, say those who are working in the basement of the store.

### 50 Years Ago From the East Oregonian Jan. 26-27, 1969

A man from Blackfoot, Idaho, was killed Sunday when he was caught in a snow storm while flying a light plane. He crashed in a wheat field near Holdman. Officials say James Lawrence Lambert, 45, was killed on impact. His plane crashed about one mile south of Lee Weidert's home on Highway 395 at Holdman, about 15 miles northwest of Pendleton. Lambert radioed the Pendleton Airport control tower shortly before he crashed, about 2:29 p.m., that he was in trouble in a storm. An air and ground search was immediately begun. Joe Ferrucci, piloting a plane belonging to James Shoun, Round-Up Crop Dusters, discovered the wreckage about 4:45 p.m.

### 25 Years Ago From the East Oregonian Jan. 26-27, 1994

The unfamiliar sound

of metal blades clashing in competition has been echoing through the gym at McCrae Center at Blue Mountain Community College. The age-old sport of fencing has been reintroduced into the physical education program at Blue Mountain this year after a short absence. Fencing was bumped out of the physical education program a couple of years ago at Blue Mountain, but instructor Cindy Harnly has rekindled interest and now teaches a class of 10. Despite all of the scraping metal, all of the lunging and retreating, fencing is a very safe sport. Harnly said that in heated competition when competitors are very close they can sometimes break a foil, but she hasn't seen anyone taken off on a stretcher yet. "I have never seen anyone hurt more than a leg strain," she said.

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