

# Damaging Flood Leaves Mess

## Al Ullman Appeals For Project

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 10, Congressmen Al Ullman today asked House Appropriations Committee members for urgent action on the Willow Creek Flood Control project flood at Heppner.

"I have notified the members of the House Appropriations committee of the flood damage," Ullman said. "and hope that the Willow Creek project will receive high priority in their current consideration of public works funding."

Ullman added, "It is now even more imperative that funds be appropriated to get the Willow Creek project underway at the earliest possible time. If the Heppner dam had been constructed, it would have helped protect the people of Heppner and other Morrow county communities from damage and possible loss of life."

Ullman also noted that a request may shortly be made by Morrow county officials to Gov. McCall urging that Heppner be declared a disaster area.

"Such designation will make damaged properties eligible for low interest federal loans and possibly other forms of assistance," Ullman said.

"I intend to do everything possible to facilitate whatever aid is required," he added.

Ullman's telegram to Representative Michael J. Kirwan, chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee on public works, was typical of warnings that the Second District Congressman sounded. It read: "Last night another costly flood hit the town of Heppner on Willow Creek in Oregon. Fortunately, because of telephoned warnings from upstream no lives were lost as in the deadly flood of 1903. Property damage may run higher than floods of 1937 or 1965. You will recall testimony before your subcommittee on June 2 by Judge Paul Jones of Morrow county and myself in support of appropriations to initiate advanced engineering and design studies of Willow Creek project authorized in 1965. I am sure you understand that events of last night make our plea even more urgent. Your help will be deeply appreciated."

## Judge Jones Tells Of Good Reception On Trip to D. C.

(See page 1, section 2, for full report)

Judge Paul Jones reports that he received an excellent reception in Washington, D. C., last week when he went there to appear before congressional subcommittees on the Willow Creek project.

Judge Jones had an appointment to appear before a House sub-committee only, but had the opportunity, upon arrival, to also appear before the Senate sub-committee. Therefore, he made both appearances and while they were brief, he found that the committee members were interested and asked questions following his presentation.

Judge Jones had high praise for the help and support given by Oregon's Congressional delegation.

Both of Oregon's senators, Mark Hatfield and Robert Packwood, gave excellent assistance, and Sen. Hatfield also made a strong appeal before the senate subcommittee.

Judge Jones' trip, partly financed by the county and partly financed by the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce, was to urge that a pre-construction appropriation be made for the project this year. Funds for such an appropriation were not included in the President's budget, and the administration has announced a policy of "no new starts" this year. However, the Willow Creek project is regarded as one of high priority — ranking among the top three in the State of Oregon.

Mrs. Jones accompanied her husband, and due to the fact that they left on a holiday weekend, they were able to spend some time sightseeing. They saw many of the attractions of the nation's capitol, and although it was a work time for her husband, she said she enjoyed "every minute of it."

More Front Page  
News  
On Back Page,  
THIS SECTION

86th Year

Number 16

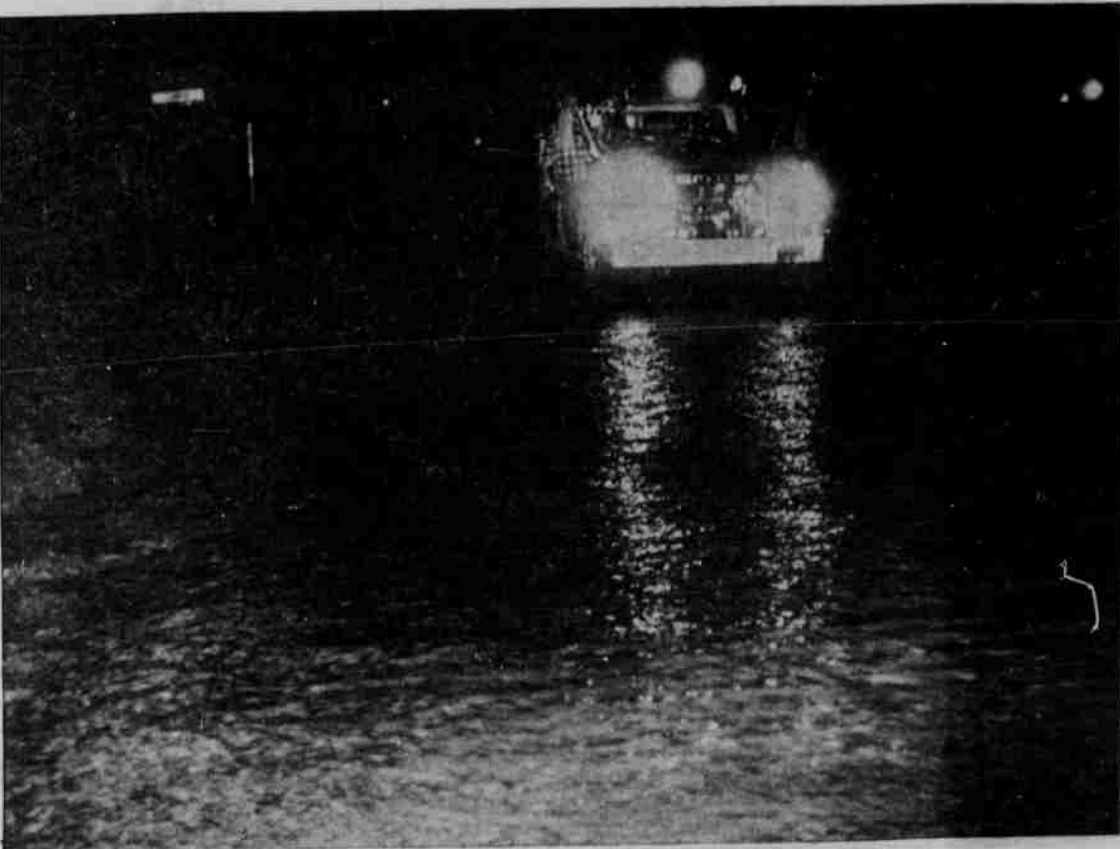
# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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WHILE FLOOD WATER ROLLED almost knee deep past his home on 260 S. Main, Carsten Brandhagen climbed over deposited debris to enter the evacuated place and check damage. Picture was taken about 11 p.m. Monday night.



LIGHTS OF A CITY fire truck reflect on flood waters on South Main street late Monday night as it ploughs through the water. Firemen had a busy night and stayed on duty until 4:30 a.m. after danger of more crests had passed.

## Conservation Field Day Set for June 18

As State Conservation Men of the Year, Bob and Herb Peterson, who ranch as Peterson Bros., will be honored at the annual Field Day on Wednesday, June 18. Many from across the state, including agricultural leaders, will assemble at the Peterson Bros. ranch.

The event is sponsored by the Oregon Wheat Growers League and the John Deere Co. of Portland.

At 10 a.m. the group will assemble at the ranch, which is located 16 miles from Ione, near the Valby Lutheran church. E. H. (Tad) Miller, Jr., president of the Morrow County Wheat Growers and chairman of the tour, will introduce guests and present remarks.

Bob Peterson will respond with a talk of welcome, after which the visitors will tour the Eight-mile place of the operation.

Free lunch, presented by Paul and Helen Pettyjohn, Shell Oil

and chemical jobbers of Ione, will be at 12:30.

Louis Carlson, 1969 chairman of the selection committee, Tom Vaughan, Oregon Wheat League president, and Don Robinson of the John Deere Co., will speak briefly during the lunch hour.

At 1:15 a tour will be conducted on the remaining part of the ranch operation.

Sharing honors with the title awarded at the Wheat League meeting in December are Henry Peterson, father of the Peterson brothers, and Holmes Gaubert, who owns one of the ranches they operate.

The total operation consists of 8,871 acres. All the cropland is planted and tilled on the contour. Other major practices are stubble mulch, 17 miles diversion ditches, 10 acres sod waterways, subsolling 400 acres, rotation grazing of 307 acres and deferred grazing 2,350 acres.

Anyone interested is invited to

attend the field day to see for himself what can be done in conservation.

## Heppner District Second in Contest

Heppner Soil and Water Conservation district has placed second in the annual contest for the Goodyear award, according to information received by the district.

West Linn SWCD won first place in the contest and thereby earned the right to send two persons from the district to the Goodyear Farm at Mesa, Ariz. Heppner SWCD received a plaque for second place.

The Heppner district won first in the state in 1964 and on a previous time in the 1950's. The competition this year included the 67 districts in the state.

MORE  
FLOOD PICTURES  
Page 5, Sec. 1, and  
Pages 4 and 5, Sec. 2

Heppner's Monday  
Night Rain .89;  
Others up to 1.95

While focus of attention is on Heppner with a concentration of the mess after Monday night's flash flood, it didn't get the most rainfall, according to reports from Don Gilliam, Heppner weather observer, and from ranchers in the area.

Gilliam's gauges recorded a total of .89 inch of rain, coming in two separate heavy downpours. Ranchers in outlying areas reported as much as 1.55 inches. Henry Baker of the lone area said his gauges showed more this much. He said that he had never seen so much rainfall at one time. Roads were so extensively damaged that he could not get to Columbia Basin Electric Co-op's open house, even though he was among those instrumental in organizing the cooperative.

Don Greenup reported 1.25 inches at his Hinton creek ranch.

Gilliam said that the first deluge, coming just after 9 p.m., tallied .51 inch, and the second wave of the storm, occurring about midnight, brought another .39 inch.

Rainfall for June already totals 1.65 inch, all coming in a three-day period. Sunday through Tuesday, this exceeds the normal for the month of June (1.40 inches by .25 inch).

High temperature of the week was 96 degrees last Wednesday. The ensuing night's minimum held up to 71 degrees.

Through the week's electrical storm, which was prolonged intermittently from Saturday evening through Monday night, the weather held warm and humid, like the steaming jungles.

Complete report for the week is as follows:

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Wednesday	96	57	—
Thursday	92	71	—
Friday	88	58	—
Saturday	81	53	—
Sunday	77	58	.30
Monday	81	60	.46
Tuesday	80	58	.89

## Monday Night Storm June, 1903, 'Encore'

Just five days before the 66th anniversary of the Great Heppner Flood, another deluge hit Monday night as if to revive memories of the great disaster of 1903.

Fortunately, the damage was only a fraction of the flood at the turn of the century. No one was hurt, and property loss was not nearly as devastating.

But as of Tuesday night there is still no real estimate on the total loss. In the aggregate, it may run high, although the flash flood was more of a nuisance than it was a destroyer.

A torrent of rainfall, accompanied by an electrical storm, broke about 9 p.m. In less than a half

hour, the city's flood siren was sounded from warnings that emanated from Shobe canyon (along the Condon-Heppner highway).

The waters swept down the canyon, followed the creek channel and veered towards Chase street, a familiar pattern in similar storms of 1937, 1961 and 1965.

However, the volume became so heavy that it soon overflowed the channel banks and ran down the south end of Main street. It engulfed the city's new swimming pool just a day after it had opened for its second season after being completely rebuilt last year under a city bond issue.

At the height of the storm, water was running up to two feet deep on the street by the swimming pool. Lumber, small logs, tree branches and all manner of debris were carried along by the swiftly moving currents.

The water surged around homes in the area, went through the service area of the U. S. Forest Service, Heppner Ranger District, headquarters and into its warehouse and garage.

**Muck Reaches Foot Deep**  
The flow was heavy with chocolate-colored silt, and it deposited as much as a foot of muck in places on Heppner's streets.

One of the deepest deposits was on West Center Street and Chase Street by the Morrow County Creamery.

The water rolled over used car lots at Farley Motor Company and at Heppner Auto Sales. It left mud at the service station area of Jerry's Shell. It swept through residential blocks, filling basements and laying waste to lawns and yards, always leaving the muck in its wake.

On Cannon street, east of Chase, the main damage again was from the mess of the flood. Little real loss was suffered by the home owners in this area, although most of them had some damage. Doyle Key's barn was swept away at the height of the flood and farms along the canyon to the south were hard hit with loss to buildings, pastures, small bridges and other facilities.

Firemen, under the direction of Fire Chief Forrest Burkenbine, had assembled their rotary fire drill when the danger became apparent. Many of them worked straight through the night to patrol streets, notify residents of the impending danger, check out leads of other waterspouts, and perform other services.

**Four-Foot Head Dissipates**  
Report came in from the Willbur Gourleys that a four-foot head of water was coming down Skinner creek, which flows into Willow Creek. This was after the crest of the flood from Shobe canyon, and by the time it arrived at Heppner it had dissipated enough so that it did little harm.

City Police Officer Dean Gilman first noticed the impending flood when he drove up the Condon Highway during the downpour on the theory that it might cause a flood.

"I switched the spotlight on and played it over the fields. I could see that dark mass really rolling," he said. Gilman said he turned around, "hit" the siren and sounded the warning that resulted in the sounding of the general flood siren.

Many residents at first considered it a "false alarm," but many others heeded for high ground. Some never heard the siren at all.

In the pitch darkness and with little knowledge of what was occurring, except to know that sirens were sounding and in torrents, many residents were frightened and didn't know what to do. Even those who ventured to the south end of town and saw the river of water pouring towards town had no way of telling the extent of the flooding nor the amount of damage caused.

Many left their homes, however, until they were sure it was safe to return.

**Roads in Bad Shape**  
Meanwhile, rural areas were taking punishment. Roads were extensively damaged. Judge

(Continued on page 8)

**Abrams Has Surgery At Good Samaritan**  
Bob Abrams, local attorney, is reported by his wife, Marion, to be getting along very well following major back surgery performed at Portland's Good Samaritan hospital last Wednesday morning.

The surgery involved performing a fusion for a ruptured disc condition. According to a report from Mrs. Abrams on Tuesday, he expects to be released from the hospital by June 18, but will remain in a body cast for some time.

His room number is 485 for friends who wish to correspond with him.