

FLOOD WATERS SMASH VANPORT; NEW BREAK IN DIKE THREATENS

In The Day's News

The Herald and News

WEATHER
 Max. (May 30) 68 Min. 45
 Precipitation last 24 hours .16
 Stream feet in date 11.25
 Last year 7.41 Normal 11.99
 Forecast: Showers.

PRICE FIVE CENTS KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, MONDAY, MAY 31, 1948 Telephone 8111 ** No. 1383

Here Is Dramatic Vanport Flood Close-Up



The camera here caught a dramatic segment of the scene of destruction and tragedy at Vanport when flood waters poured into the town yesterday through a broken dike. The picture shows the water rising over parked cars while the refugees thrash around in the waist-deep flood. In the foreground a rescuer has picked up a small boy who clings with arms about the neck of his benefactor. Shadows on the shirts of several men in the picture show they have been in still deeper water. This sensational picture was rushed by the Associated Press to The Herald and News. See general Vanport scene on page 5.

DEATHS FEARED CERTAIN BUT NO BODIES FOUND

By JAMES H. FERGUSON

VANPORT, Ore., May 31 (AP)—Another dike threatening to break today under the raging flood that destroyed this town of 18,700 people yesterday as completely as a mashed toy village.

Everyone except rescue workers, hunting bodies in the shattered town of Vanport, were ordered out of the area to avoid being caught in a second break.

The water from the flooding Columbia threatened to spew over an already-alerted suburban district and the \$1,500,000 Portland Meadows race track.

Slows Search
 The new danger slowed the search of the brown, debris-splattered lake that covers what yesterday was the thriving town of Vanport. Murky waters, up to 15 feet deep, still concealed today the secret of how many lives were lost.

No bodies have been recovered from the devastated town. But no one knew how many might be concealed in the crumpled houses, the submerged streets, the sunken cars.

Sheriff Martin T. Pratt said, "It is beyond the realm of possibility that in all these shattered buildings, maze of toppled telephone and power poles, and the crush of people who fought their way out, that none should have died. They are going to find bodies in there but I will not venture a guess on how many. We will not find the last victim's body until the river recedes, and that will be a matter of weeks."

Red Cross Mum
 "There have been a number of deaths," was all the Red Cross, coordinating a list of the missing, could say. Dozens of refugees, crying bewilderedly in Portland evacuee centers, reported missing relatives.

"But many of them may be in another place," reported Mrs. Kay Larson, Red Cross official. She told how a Red Cross photographer took a picture of a man, crying for his lost wife; and then, hours later in another evacuee center, found the wife mourning her lost husband.

With thousands of evacuees scattered through Portland schools, homes and public buildings, a round-the-clock check had still not succeeded in making a full list of the missing.

The wall of water, which crashed through a dike yesterday and roared through the great sprawling town knocking down people and houses before it like teppins, will not recede until the flooded Columbia goes down. The Columbia is due to crest here tomorrow.

Houses Searched
 Not until after that can the rescuers look through the submerged first stories, or the splintered houses. Boats, plying the city throughout the night, found no one in the houses' second floors.

The dike broke without warning upon a town that had been told only that morning that "You will have time to leave. Don't get excited." The dikes had been inspected only Saturday night by engineers, the director of the housing authority which runs Vanport, and the chairman of the housing authority.

They were reported so sound that Sunday morning the Vanport housing authority distributed under floodlights last night and the probe of the submerged automobiles and dwellings went into full pace at dawn. Hundreds are injured and in hospitals.

Vanport—once the second largest city in Oregon in the wartime shipyard era here—is a total loss.

Most of the victims are expected to be children. The playdays of the town were crowded for Sunday afternoon games when the flood struck suddenly. Many are sons and daughters of veterans living in the public housing project and students at Vanport college centered in the town. The anxiety of most of the adult survivors is for their offspring. Dozens told of leaving children in upper floors of the buildings—believed in safety—buildings that later folded like tents when the flood impact struck the apartments. Others said children were torn from their grasp. Their fate is unknown today.

Dike Breaks Open
 The disaster struck the community in a flanking of flood waters from the swollen Columbia river. The backwater and lake it formed had weakened a railroad embankment on the west edge of the city. The river level had risen to 15 feet above the Vanport table-like ground level yesterday morning. The break came under the tracks at 4:15 p. m. (PST). The pre-arranged siren signal for the townfolk was sounded. But within minutes the gap had spread to 60 feet, then 600 feet and a six-foot wall of water swept into the city.

Hundreds heard the warning signal, but thousands—lulled by earlier reports that they were in no imminent danger—appeared to ignore the danger and scoffed as neighbors dashed for the high dikes surrounding the mile square area. Today the scene was a placid pool on which the frame apartment buildings floated, shattered walls and roofs and household goods drifted aimlessly.

The tragedy of the disaster was told by men and women who were sheltered last night in schools and churches without knowing whether their children are among the living.

Cars Stalled
 Survivors scattered in shelters throughout nearby Portland told of their harrowing escape, of racing away from the wall of water, swimming to higher land or escaping from cars stalled in a mass jam of vehicles on the two roads exiting from the low-lying town.

They said the first 15 minutes was a maddening rush of men, women and children striving to save their lives, frantically uncertain where to turn and run except away from the water.

When the thousands of refugees began streaming from the stricken city, huge interurban buses, trucks and private cars took them to temporary rehabilitation centers. Four truckloads of food donated by private citizens was distributed.

The Red Cross called in a team of radio hams to maintain communication with scattered relief centers and actual rescue operations in Vanport.

Seen From Plane
 An airplane pilot, Calvin Hulbert, was over the area when the dike broke.

"There was no warning trickle," he related. "There was suddenly a six-foot breach in the railroad embankment. Then it was 60 feet, then 600."

"A wall of water 10 feet high slid through the breach, striking down whole apartment buildings like a bulldozer knocks down a sapling. The buildings seemed to burst as the water hit them. I saw the whole wall of an apartment pop out like a balloon exploding."

Gordon G. McNab, an Associated Press staff man, was on the scene a few minutes after the water began pouring through the dike. "I passed an apartment building where a dozen people lounged, the men in shirtsleeves," he said. "A woman said, 'They're crazy, the water won't get in here.'"

Residents had been advised shortly before that there was little danger, that plenty of warning would be given if the dike were threatened. The advice was contained in mimeographed sheets distributed by the Portland housing authority, which operated the city. U. S. army engineers advised Saturday night that no North Portland dikes were seriously endangered.

McNab continued: "I ran west toward the break. Suddenly across a

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By FRANK JENKINS
 PAUL ROBESON, who has been rather well treated in America, color or no color, refuses to tell the senate judiciary committee (which is hearing opponents of the Mundt-Nixon communist control bill) whether or not he is a communist.

He says he will go to jail first. He adds that he thinks members of the communist party have done a magnificent job in America.

THIS writer can't understand that state of mind. If communism is as good as the communists say, sincere members of the communist party ought to be proud of their membership.

Many people since the world began have been willing to die, if need be, for their faith, and most of us honor their memory for it. But REFUSING TO TELL WHAT YOUR FAITH IS is another matter.

It is a far less admirable matter. We are told that communists are REQUIRED to conceal their party membership. Why? This writer doesn't know, but it is assumed that communism is so generally feared and disliked by right-minded people that it can't operate effectively out in the open. If it is to get where it wants to get, it must work FROM AMBIGUITY.

That raises another question, whose answer we can only guess, because the truth mustn't be admitted. The question is this: WHERE does communism WANT to get?

THIS is the probable answer: Communism wants to get into power. The members of the communist party want to sit in the seats of power. They are shrewd enough to realize they can't get where they want to get by open, honest methods. (No country has yet voted VOLUNTARILY to accept communism. Where it has won, it has won by violence.)

Members of the communist party are instructed to conceal their party membership. They are taught that only thus can they hope to get into power. That, in itself, is an admission that power is what they are after and that ANYTHING that gets them into power, by force or otherwise, is justifiable.

The method, you will note, is identical with that by which Capone and the other racketeers of his time obtained what they wanted.

IN Czechoslovakia yesterday, they held an election to choose the members of their parliament. There was only ONE ticket. The ticket was the communist ticket. You voted the communist ticket or you didn't vote.

Three-quarters of a million people refused to vote the communist ticket. That is to say, they dropped blank ballots into the box.

That took courage—for it must be assumed that in a secret-police state, such as Czechoslovakia now is (as a result of force), the big bosses who run the show wouldn't overlook an important detail like fixing it so they could tell who voted how. It would be obvious that a blank vote was an anti-communist vote.

In a communist state, they know how to handle anti-communists. Some of the ways aren't pleasant, but they seem to be effective.

THIS writer can admire greatly the three-quarters of a million people in Czechoslovakia who felt so strongly about communism that they backed concentration camps rather than vote for something they feared and despised.

But he can't work up much admiration for the American communists who refuse to confess membership in their party.

Dallas Arch Death Told

Dallas Arch, former resident of Klamath Falls and Malin, was killed recently in an automobile accident at Pierre, S. D., according to word from Mrs. Arch, the former Della Conner of this city.

Arch was with Turner Chevrolet company in Klamath Falls for several years. His widow is the former Della Conner, a graduate of KUHS with the class of 1939. Recently Arch moved his family to Pierre where he held a car dealership. Details of the accident were not learned here.

In addition to Mrs. Arch, survivors include two young children, Dick, 7, and Linda, 8 months.

Mrs. Arch and her children plan to return to Klamath Falls to make their home.

Traffic Death Figures Mount

By The Associated Press
 The nation's holiday week-end traffic and other accidental deaths today had exceeded the national safety council's estimate long before the homeward-bound rush of highway travel began.

The council predicted the total fatalities for the period at 225 but the toll had climbed to 269 shortly before noon today with traffic mishaps accounting for 159 of the dead, 42 and miscellaneous accidents, including plane crashes, 68.

The traffic deaths already were 47 more than the council had predicted.

Admitted—William Whitlatch, retired farmer living at route 3 box 367, is receiving medical care at Hillside hospital. He was admitted Monday morning.

Arabs Smash Jew Attack At Highway

CAIRO, May 31 (AP)—The Trans-Jordan Arab legion announced today it had smashed a Jewish assault in the Latrun area, which controls the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, and found 114 of the Jews dead on the battlefield.

The announcement came from Amman as Arab armies maneuvered on the north, south and east approaches of Tel Aviv. Jerusalem dispatches told of an Israeli appeal to encircle Jews in modern Jerusalem to stand fast.

Leave Cars
 The Amman communique said Jewish forces in the Latrun action left behind four armored cars and large quantities of arms, ammunition and trench digging machines.

Latrun lies 22 miles southeast of Tel Aviv and 15 miles west of Jerusalem. The legion said its artillery continued shelling Jewish posts and armored convoys in the Jerusalem area.

Premier David Ben-Gurion of the embattled Jewish state messaged its people in modern Jerusalem Sunday that, notwithstanding the loss of the old walled city, strenuous efforts were being pressed to relieve them.

Encirclement
 The Arab movements upon Tel Aviv, initial capital and military headquarters of Israel, appeared designed for encirclement rather than a frontal assault.

The Jews said Iraqi troops were within nine miles at one point. Arab and Trans-Jordan forces were about 20 miles away.

Arab shells fell in Jewish sections of Jerusalem.

"In the past few weeks we have succeeded in substantially increasing our effective strength on the land and in the air," Ben-Gurion said. "Notwithstanding the end of the fighting in the old city, strenuous efforts to relieve Jerusalem and the area are in hand and are being pressed."

Flood Cripples Portland Travel

PORTLAND, May 31 (AP)—The flood that destroyed Vanport crippled transportation in this city today, and battered the low-lying sections of the city.

Airlines, fearful the municipal airport would be inundated, were not flying from here. Union Pacific trains were halted by a flood at The Dalles. Train service northward—except for one stub train for passengers with reservations—was stopped as flood waters covered rails at Kalama, Wash. Only the southbound trains were still running. And they could not use the Union depot, flooded with water.

An alternate route was through Central Oregon. The McKenzie river pass, from Eugene to Bend, is still snowbound.

FIRE
 SOUTH ST. PAUL, May 31 (AP)—Fire attacked the tinder-dry wooden pens of the South St. Paul Union Stockyards company at 11:45 a. m. today and within 30 minutes had spread over a two-block area.

Two Hurt In Auto Accident

Two 20-year-old Merrill youths were treated at Hillside hospital early this morning when their car careened off the Merrill highway in the Henley district, struck a telephone pole and crashed into a borrow pit.

Injured were Elroy Crueger, route 1 box 616, driver, and James William Humphrey, Merrill. Humphrey was the more seriously injured. He received head cuts and Crueger had minor head injuries and a cut hand. The accident occurred at 4:45 a. m. Crueger was driving a convertible at the time.

Hillside hospital attendants said the two were held for medical care for several hours and dismissed at about 8:30 a. m.

State police said this was the only week-end accident up to mid-morning Monday.

Water Rising In The Dalles

THE DALLES, Ore., May 31 (AP)—The Columbia river ripped through a revetment protecting this city today and flooded toward the business district.

The main line of the Union Pacific railroad running from Portland east was partly under water, and the railroad yards submerged.

Hundreds of men seeking to plug the leak lost their fight soon after the river started coming through. The revetment was breached just at the city's eastern edge.

The residential district is on higher ground and no fears for it are felt.

The Union Pacific halted west-bound trains at The Dalles and hoped to find steam locomotives to bring them on in to Portland. Steam engines can get through a foot of water. Eastbound trains were being held at Portland.

No Game

Called off—rain.

Thus far this season 11 baseball games have been scheduled for Klamath Falls showing by the Klamath Gems, and only six have been played. The other five have had to be postponed because of bad weather.

Latest casualty is the holiday doubleheader slated for tonight with the Marysville Braves. The games are called off.

Weather permitting, the Gems and Braves will try to get in a twin bill Tuesday night, starting at 6 p. m.

Friends, Relatives Of Vanport Residents Keep Long Phone Vigil For News From Area

Telephone communications were literally jammed out of Klamath Falls last night as worried friends and relatives sought word of Vanport's fate.

At least one mother sat up through the night waiting for a call but at 10:30 this morning, Mrs. J. B. Lemire of 3356 Altamont drive, got word that her son Ben was safe.

Ben is a pre-med student at Vanport college and was unable to call home. He was detailed to work throughout the night with a rescue squad. Ben is a resident of Veterans Village at Vanport. He saved only his car and camera.

Another vanport student, Chuck Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Smith, 1995 Auburn, was able to call his family at 6:30 last night. Smith was also a resident of Vanport village and said he was among the who lost their possessions.

Mr. and Mrs. Milo Cheyne and six children, 8, 5 and 3 years of age, were given 10 minutes notice to evacuate their home in the vil-

lage, according to word received here at 11:30 last night by Milo's mother, Mrs. Fannie Cheyne of the Henley district, and his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Milkey, 904 Walnut.

Mrs. Cheyne is en route to Klamath Falls while her husband remains in Portland where he is employed. The Cheynes, who said they were alerted two days ago, estimated the dead around 200. They lost all their possessions.

Still shaken from their experience in the flood were Mr. and Mrs. Coy G. Perkins who with their 8-month-old daughter Kimberly were among the first cars out of Vanport. They arrived here early this morning and are remaining for a day or two with Mrs. Perkins' mother, Mrs. Keith K. Ambrose, 1510 Oregon avenue.

The Perkins had packed all their belongings preparatory to leaving the project for Los Angeles. They were having a farewell cup of coffee with upstairs neighbors in the 14-unit apartment late yesterday afternoon when they heard a commotion outside.

Running to the window they could see the 30-foot fall of water at the dike, cascading "like a waterfall" into the project.

"We just picked up the baby and ran to the car. They had warned us that there would be a long blast from the siren, but all we heard later were three short blasts which didn't mean anything to us."

"As we drove through the project with our car and trailer, children were playing in the meadows and no one seemed to know what was happening," Mrs. Perkins said.

They passed the word along as best they could but were unable to get through to the Interstate road because of sightseers. There was no traffic director at the scene and it was 20 minutes before the Perkins' car could break through to the highway.

"Everytime I shut my eyes, I can see that waterfall. I am still shaking. It is an experience that we'll never forget," Mrs. Perkins said.