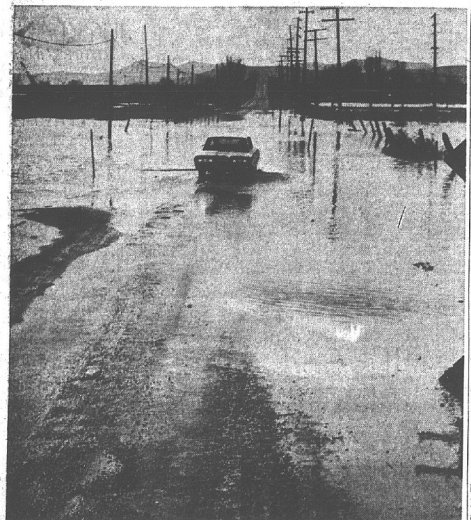
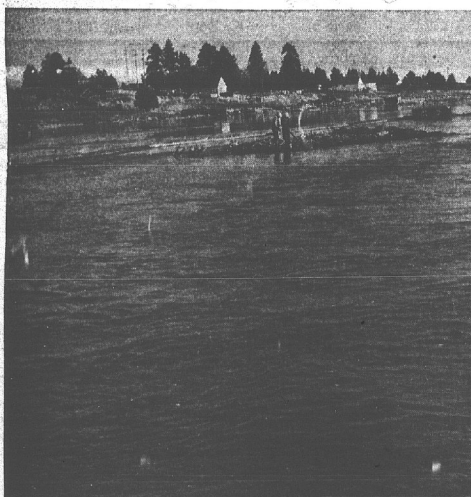


# State, Federal Authorities Seek Solution To Klamath Basin Flood Damage Problems

Appeals made to state and federal authorities for a solution to the damaging flood conditions that have existed in the Klamath Basin since before Christmas, have resulted in immediate recognition of the problem by Gov. Mark O. Hatfield, U.S. Senators Wayne Morse and Maurice Neuberger, U.S. Congressman Al Ulman, and Lt. Col. Robert Allan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco. Communications for aid were drafted by the newly organized Upper Klamath River Emergency Flood Control Committee, composed of ranchers and homeowners who are suffering severe flood damage from inundated lands.



**FLOODED WASHBURN WAY** — This view, looking south on Washburn Way toward the Great Northern overpass, shows the area of the street that is under water. Traffic proceeds slowly through this point, but at its own risk.



**BARGE BACKS WATER** — An old sunken barge that has accumulated trash just below the bridge at Keno causes an obstruction that helps hold water back and flood ranchlands in the area. It is in this area that there are rock reefs that cause problems when a heavy volume of water flows down the stream. It is proposed that these reefs be blown clear to widen the channel.



**FENCES NO PROTECTION** — Fences may keep cattle in, but they did nothing to keep water out. Here, waters from the Klamath River have backed up across these farmlands about as far as the eye can see. This view was taken in the Keno Highway area.

**Flood Dangerous**  
Lawrence, in a statement to the Herald and News Friday, said that a "creeping flood can be as deadly as a dramatic landslide or torrents of water cascading onto land within minutes."

Governor Hatfield, in answer to a telephone call placed for the Upper Klamath River Emergency Flood Control Committee, and State Engineer Chris Wheeler, who took part in the telephone conversation, asked Lawrence "what the State of Oregon could do to help."

Lawrence, acting for the committee, reported that the No. 1 problem is to get excess water off the flooded areas. In answer to Wheeler's question on a possible solution, Lawrence named the Keno Reef on the Klamath River, which begins 300 yards below the Keno Bridge on State Highway 96, as the bottleneck responsible for much of the inundation in that area of the Basin.

The reef is a natural rock formation that extends three quarters of a mile downstream.

It was further suggested that a channel could be deepened near the river bank that would carry off the excess water.

In reply, Wheeler reported "that any Oregon agency would extend any help possible." The

state engineer has since kept in constant touch with the committee.

**Other Aid Offered**  
A further declaration for assistance in correcting the disastrous situation, was made by Gene Mellow, Army engineer in charge of this area, who reported that a team will be sent to Klamath Falls to concentrate on a study of the Keno Reef in a "matter of days."

Senators Morse, Neuberger and Congressman Ulman also advised the Upper Klamath River Emergency Flood Control Committee of support in the study for channel improvement in the Klamath River to prevent recurrence of the present situation that is causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to private property.

Letters have been sent to Pacific Power and Light Company and to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation asking for cooperation. The legislators also pledged that a reconnaissance team will be sent to Klamath Falls within a few days for a thorough review of the problem.

The Upper Klamath River Emergency Flood Control Committee has gone on record with a recommendation that "permanent flood control in the Klamath Basin is an absolute must."

## Tule Water Released To Avoid Flood Danger

**TULELAKE** — With pressure building up hourly in the Tule Lake sump from precipitation and the usual mid-winter runoff, emergency measures were begun Jan. 27 by the Tule Lake Irrigation District to prevent as

much damage to farm lands by flooding as was possible.

In announcing the emergency action, TID Manager Ed Lance, said controlled flood releases were dumped into the Southwest Sump on public lease lands, after recent warm weather and winds caused high local runoff into Tule Lake.

Water was within one inch of the maximum safe level established for Tule Lake dikes when gates were opened.

Release of the water has flooded half of the 38 units of land, approximating 3,500 acres, leased by individuals for planting in 1965.

**Board Makes Decision**  
The decision to release the pressure on sump dikes was made by the TID board of directors at a special meeting, Jan. 26 to prevent water in 13,500-acre Tule Lake from rising above the maximum safe elevation of 4,635.0. Lance said the TID has been operating Tule Lake sump pursuant to rules and regulations issued by the Secretary of the Interior in 1960. Those rules require a Nov. 5 level of elevation 4,624.75, making it impossible to pump out contain a December or January flood.

Reconnaissance and a flood study by the district, dated December, 1959, submitted to Secretary of the Interior and the department advocated fall and winter water levels which would have been low enough to contain the present flood to date.

Such flood water as has been released to date this season can be pumped back into Tule Lake to permit spring planting, provided the weather is not unfavorable during the next two months, Lance said.

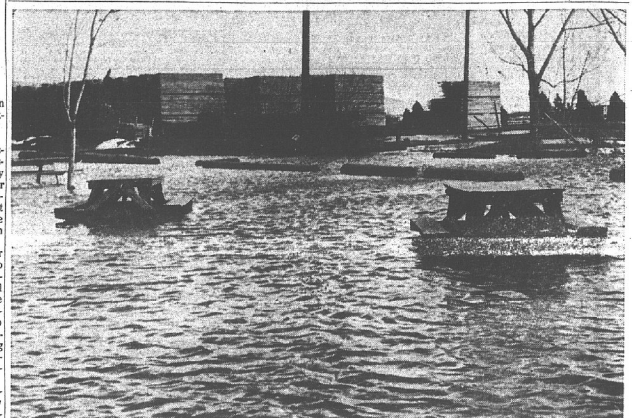
**Water Near Record**  
The inflow into the storage reservoir (Tule Lake) this season, reached 54,000 acre feet, or 18,000 acre feet more than in the 1955-1956 record flood during the same period.

The first flood release that gaged at noon Feb. 4, placed 6,500 acre feet of water into the Southwest Sump, inundating 3,500 acres of lease land and Fish and Wildlife bumper strips on the Tule Lake Wild Life Refuge. The release lowered the lake approximately three inches and spread an average of 1 1/2 feet of flood water over the 3,500 acres of farm land.

**Inflow Drops**  
Lance said inflows into Tule Lake have dropped rapidly but are still in excess of the flow that Pumping Plant D, the facility for removing water through a tunnel into Lower Klamath Lake, can handle. He reported further, that additional water releases may not be necessary.

Presently, Plant D is working at full capacity at the rate of 18,000-acre feet water removal per month. Anticipated capacity of the equipment is 17,000 feet.

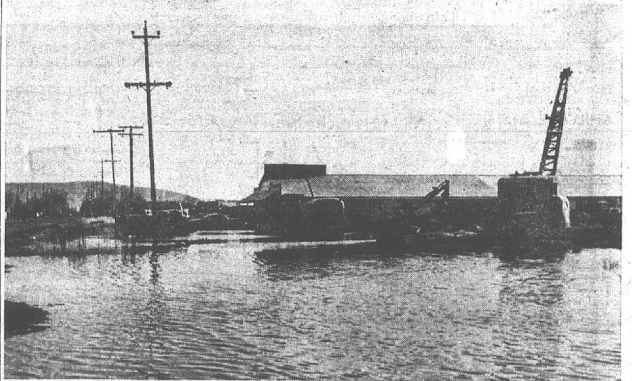
Excess water in the Lower Klamath Refuge, pumped from Tule Lake, can be evacuated through the Klamath Straits.



**PARK INUNDATED** — This is Veterans Memorial Park at the end of Klamath Avenue at Lake Ewans. Water has invaded the park area, covered the street and left these picnic benches wet and isolated.



**ROADS UNDER WATER** — Flood waters have spread over the entire area adjacent to the Keno Highway. Here, a side road off the main Keno highway is under water. The Cloude Kerns ranch can be seen in the background.



**BUSINESS UNDER WATER** — The North Side Salvage Company, along Washburn Way, has been swamped by overflowing waters. This view shows the flood waters closing in and almost isolating the salvage yards. A big piece of Washburn Way is under water at this point.



**ISOLATED STRONGHOLDS** — Here and there an area manages to keep itself out of the flood waters. This view was taken in the Keno Highway vicinity and shows the vast sweep of the waters of the Klamath River which have virtually inundated much of the ranchland along its borders.