

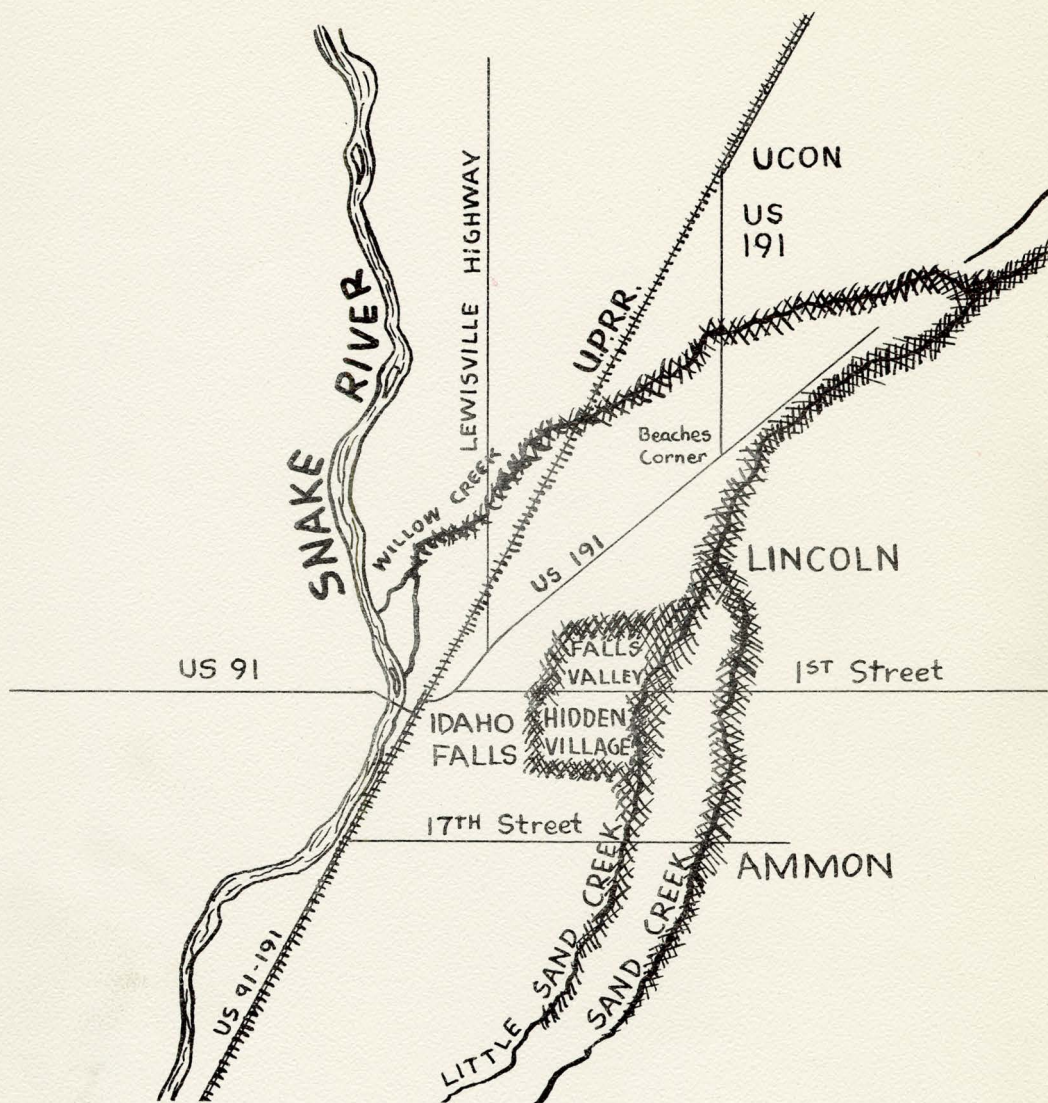
An aerial photograph of a flooded town in Idaho. The image shows numerous houses and buildings partially submerged in water. A road or railway line runs diagonally across the lower right portion of the image. The background shows more buildings and a flat landscape.

Price \$1.25

**The EASTERN
IDAHO
FLOOD STORY**

In PICTURES

February - 1962



The map above shows Sand Creek's branches and Willow Creek and the general areas flooded. All along the reaches of Sand Creek, water spilled its banks.

Introduction . . .

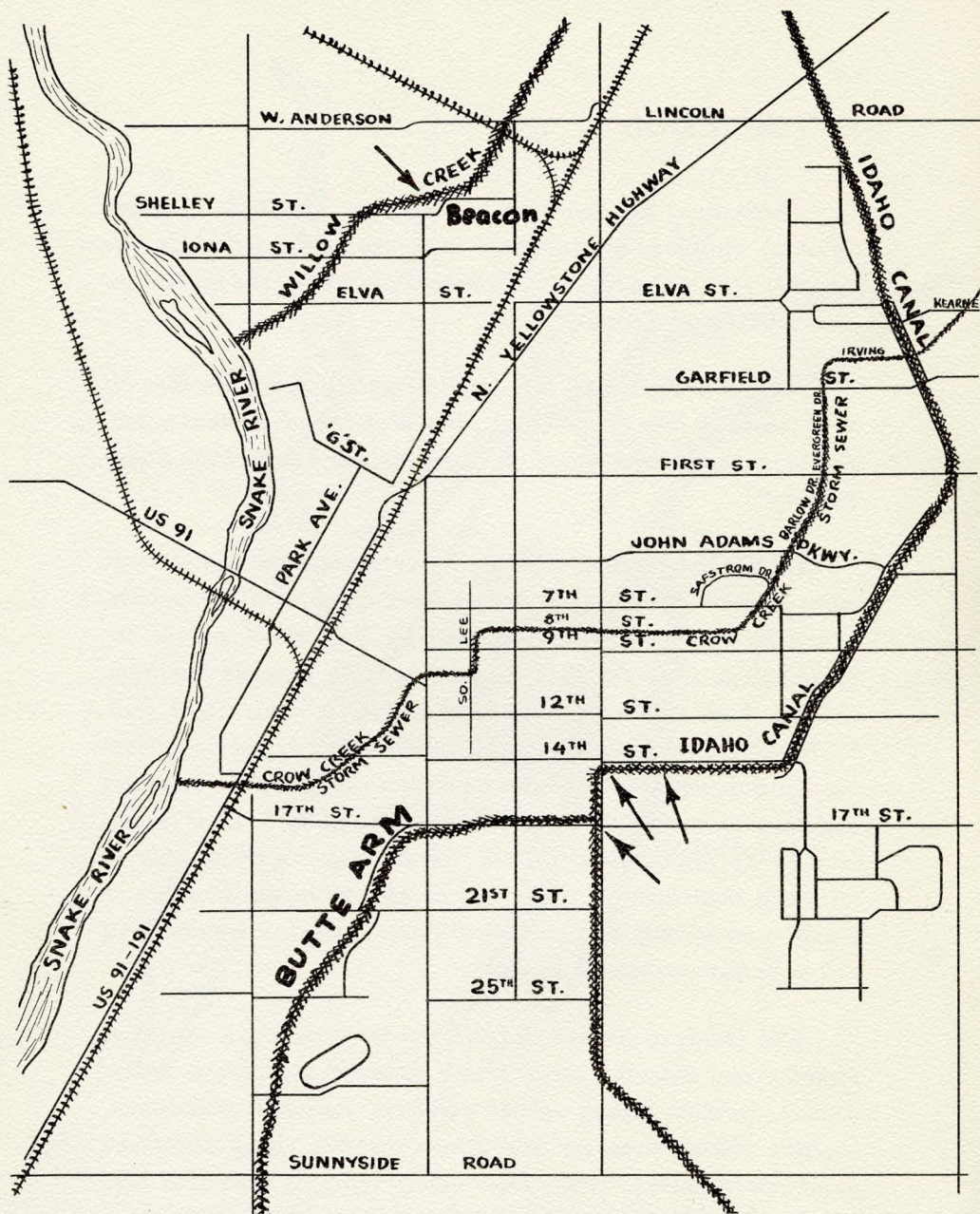
Throughout the morning of February 11, 1962, (a rainy Sunday) hundreds of interested townspeople headed their cars towards Lincoln, northeast of Idaho Falls to see the annual ice jams from Sand Creek.

Almost without fail, this small irrigation canal, touches off local floods in late February or early March and inundates several yards, some homes and on occasions, the Utah-Idaho Sugar Factory.

If only these people had any forewarning, they would have, many of them, been in their homes, evacuating furniture, personal articles, appliances and anything else they could salvage, for these waters were destined to start heading towards hundreds of Idaho Falls homes by early evening. By Monday night, Feb. 12, hundreds of families in several areas, some brand new housing developments, were seeking refuge in local hotels, relatives and friends homes and anyplace they could find, their homes covered by raging flood waters. Some may never be able to return to their homes. Some will be able to repair damages at a minimum of cost and some will have extensive repairs. All will have lost something, though.

The floods continued in this area for three days. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday crews which included volunteers, homeowners, women, young school children, national guardsmen, sheriff's posse members and others, battled rising waters at hundreds of points. Some were highly efficient organized diking crews. Others were neighborhood groups in isolated areas fighting to save their own homes and homes of friends and neighbors.

All were fighting one thing — wild water!



This map of the city of Idaho Falls, shows in detail, the arms of the offending creeks that caused the extensive flooding in the area. Sand Creek, a heavy offender in the Lincoln area, is not shown, but it, in addition to Willow Creek and the Idaho Canal, caused most of the trouble.



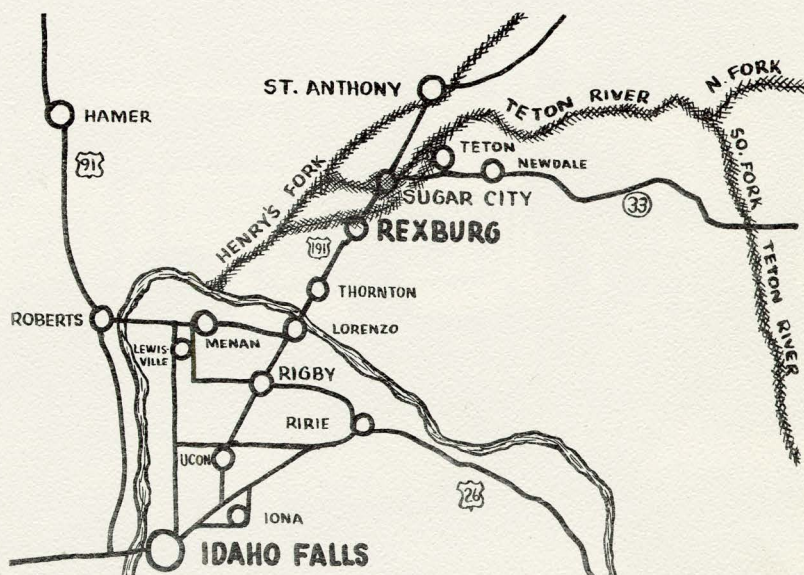
Long poles were used to snag pieces of ice before they got hung up on a bridge. And just in case a piece of ice in return didn't snag a man attempting to snag it, a rope around the waist was used. At 15th and Emerson the water started running over the bridge so men quickly built a sand bag dike.





Sandbaggers worked along miles of canals and creeks feverishly for several days to help combat the flood waters. These men fill sandbags in what, in many cases turned out to be vain efforts to stem the waters.

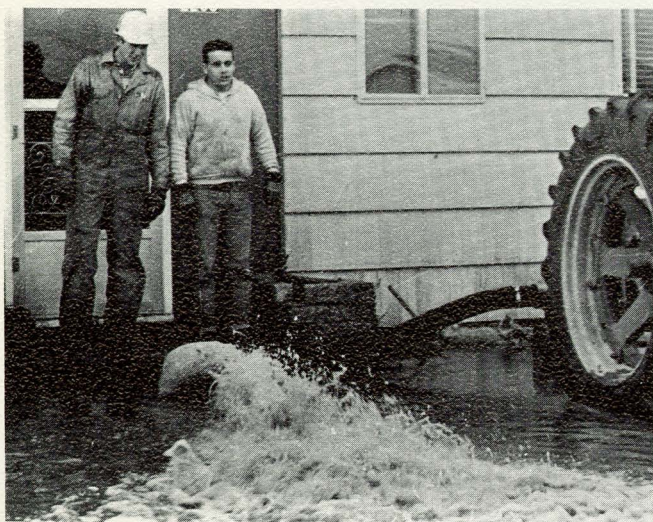
The raging Teton River caused extensive flooding in Sugar City and Rexburg north of Idaho Falls.



Basements Received The Worst Blow



Pumping crews were busy all over the stricken areas. Here a home on Syringa Street is in the process of being pumped dry. In many cases owners of homes were required to wait several days before it was advisable to start pumping since the water was still too deep around their homes.



On the left we see a home in Hill View getting the pumping treatment. Every available piece of machinery that could be put into service was brought in, many businesses freely donated men and machinery to get the job done. The spirit of co-operation ran high during the trial.



Some cars made it a little way before stalling out due to the deep water while others were simply left to be buried. In Lincoln, a motorist in trouble attempts to solve his problem. But in Falls Valley, below, the new car we see is in real trouble.





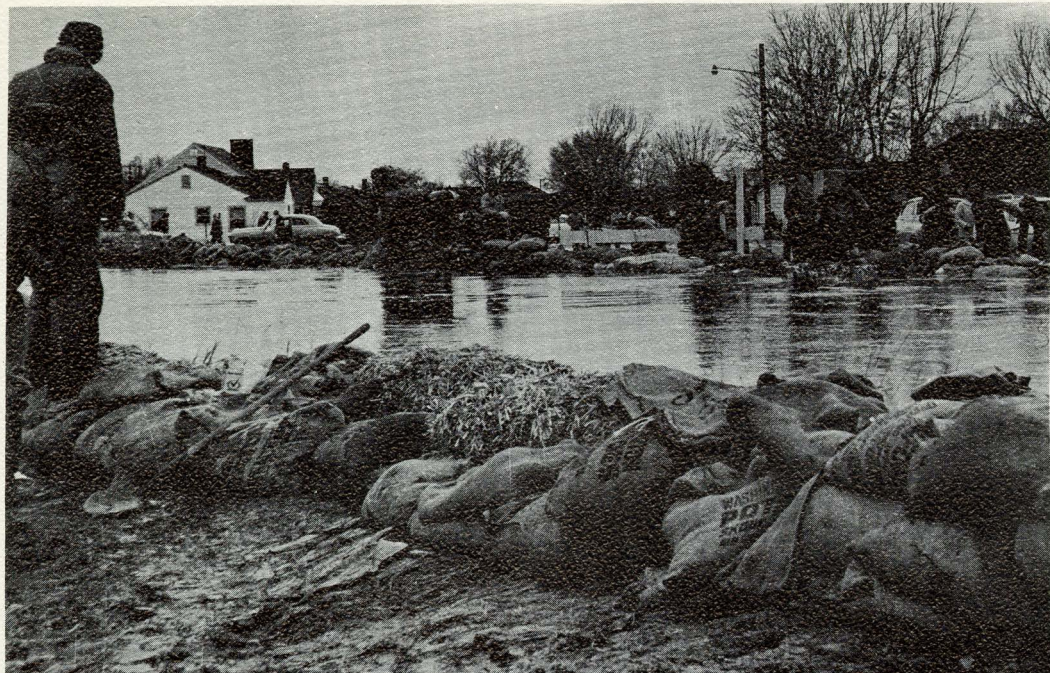
Up until later Sunday, February 11th, the flood appeared to be nothing but a little damper than the worst Idaho Falls had seen. When it looked more serious than that, evacuation moves were planned. All of Falls Valley and Hidden Village were moved out and places were located in homes for these families. We see a picture taken during the night when the moving out was taking place. Next morning there was "water, water everywhere".





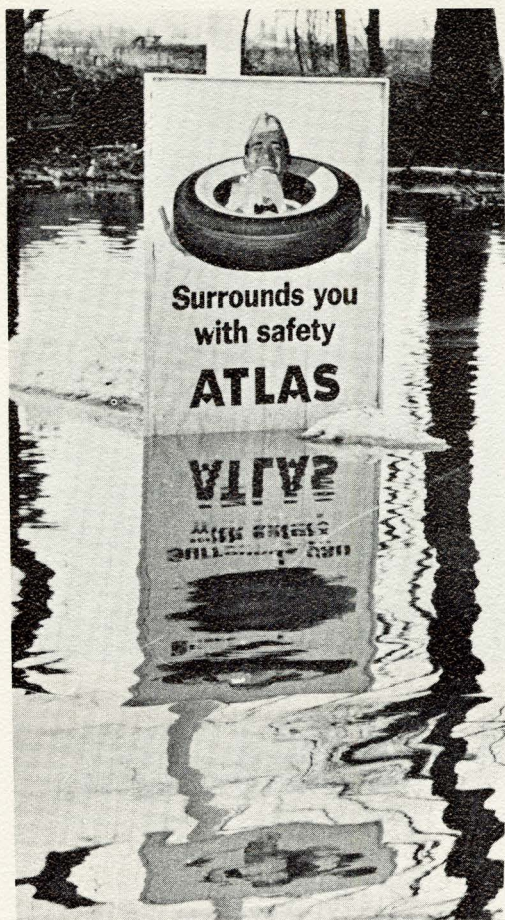
The parade of sand bags was steady along the banks of the Idaho Canal as this picture at 14th and Holmes indicates. When Idaho Falls High School was dismissed, large numbers of high school boys joined in the struggle to keep the water away from the doors of those families that were in danger.





If anyone doubts that the water wasn't high along the Idaho Canal that runs through the east side of Idaho Falls, this low angle shot near 15th Street should prove it. Below, workmen hurriedly work to get the sewer lift station in Falls Valley operating again.





In many places, a tire could have been used just as the sign in this picture indicates. This service station on First Street at the entrance of Falls Valley was closed for business so couldn't take care of the demand even if they had it. The kids managed to have a good time in spite of the deluge. These two boys in the Maplewood Addition just off First Street is evidence of this fact.





During the many hours when the water was at its crest, everyone joined in the fight against property damage. The car above didn't make it to higher ground soon enough. Below the water is seen flowing over the bridge at 15th and Emerson as the flood fighters hurry to throw sand bags in the way of the water.





Lincoln was first to feel the effect of the flood. Here we see the Lincoln School with the water line part way up the front doors. Below, the corner where the Lincoln Merc stands, was more like a river than a street.





Ice was a dangerous threat during the long hours of fighting the flood along the canals. The pieces would build up at a bridge and restrict the flow of water thus causing the canal to overflow its banks. To prevent this occurring, ice jams were blown up before they could cause trouble. Then it was possible to pick the smaller pieces of ice out of the water further down stream. Here we see one of the blasts touched off in Lincoln.



Hillview Village, in the city of Ammon, is shown in an aerial shot on Feb. 13, two days after the flood started. The water rose to several feet in many places inundating homes and forcing evacuation.

An aerial view of a portion of the city of Rexburg shows a lumber company under water with hundreds of board feet of lumber floating in the yards.





Now It's Here, What To Do About It!

While some flood-stricken people viewed the large expanses of water in their front yards differently, this young boy near Ammon, tried his luck fishing from his front steps. But Mr. and Mrs. Charles Simpson, 2170 Croft in Hidden Village, are seen in the doorway of their home waiting for the water to leave.



Hillview Village, from another vantage point in the air, shows water covering homes and surrounding fields.

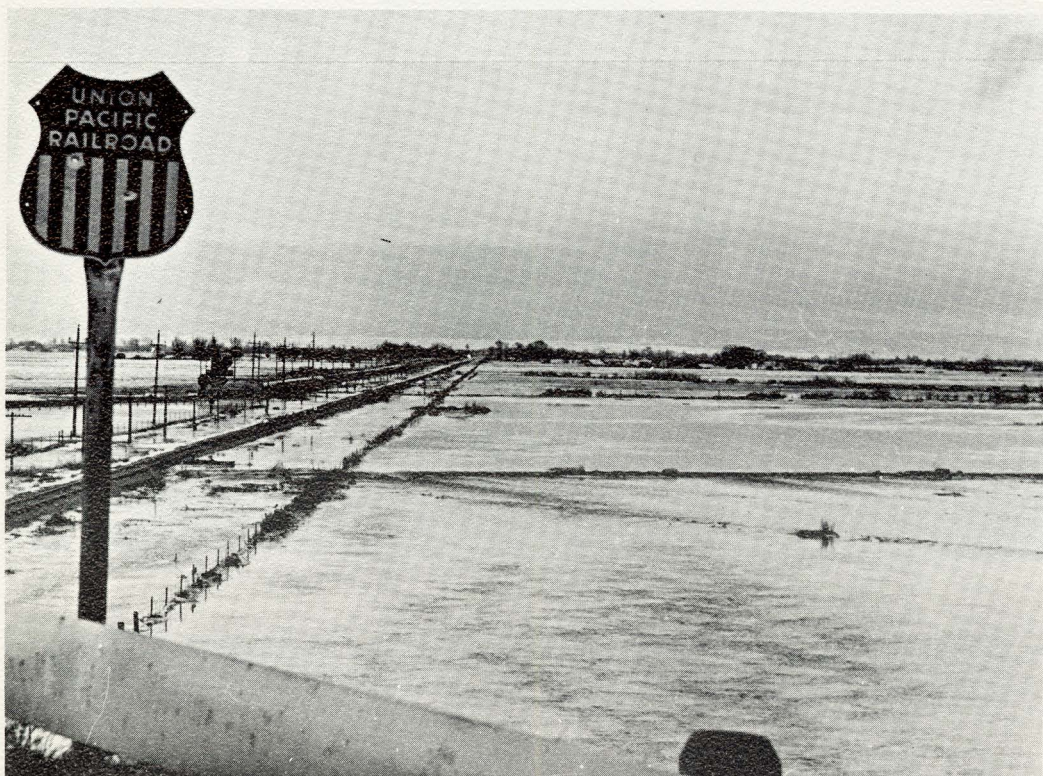
This lake is in northern Idaho Falls during the peak of the flooding.





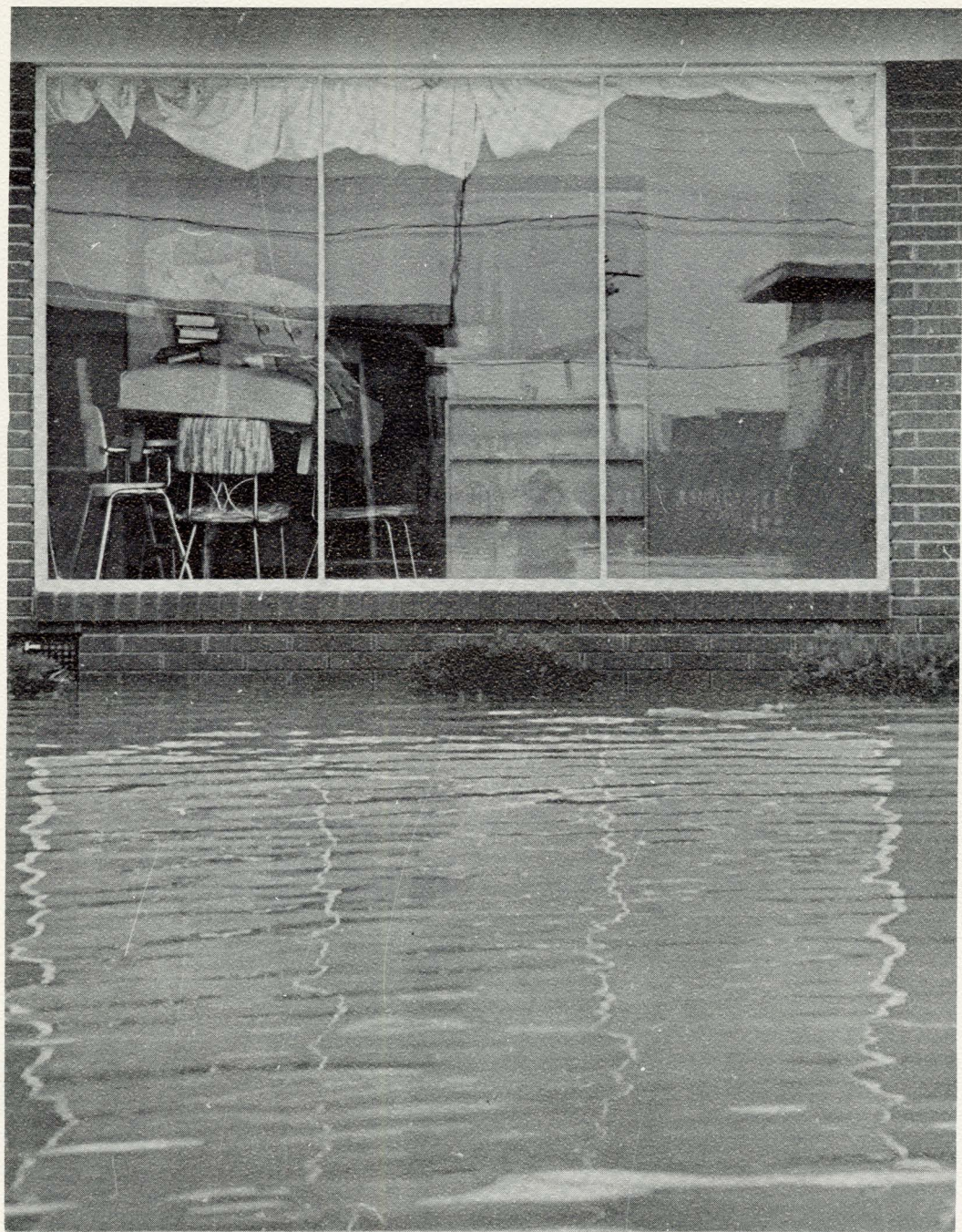
Sugar City, directly in line of the flooding Teton River, received heavy damage. From the top of the overpass just north of Sugar City, farm fields take on a lake-like look. Here, water is shown over a vast area of rich farmland.

From the top of the overpass just north of Sugar City, farm fields take on a lake-like look. Here, water is shown over a vast area of rich farmland.

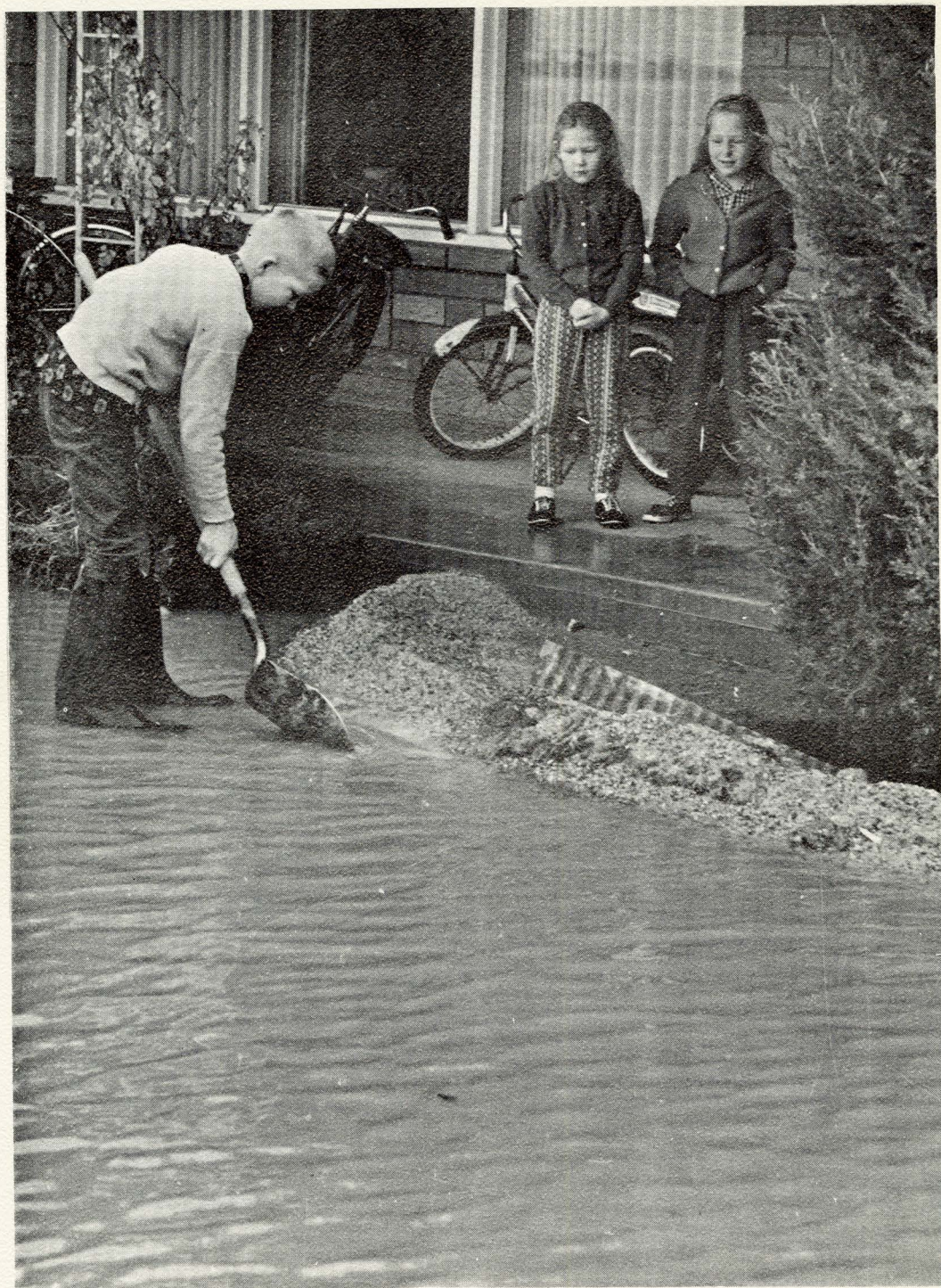




Looking from the inside out the flood seems to appear quite dismal to the two pictured above. The water outside of this door ranged from a few feet to several feet deep. It was in Falls Valley.



Throughout areas that were under water this was a familiar sight—furniture stacked high in living rooms to protect as much as possible the raging waters. This picture was taken in the Hidden Village area.



All ages pitched in to help fight the flood. Here a youngster helps shore up the family home while younger sisters look on. This same home, two days later was in the midst of a heavy flooding region on John Adams Parkway.

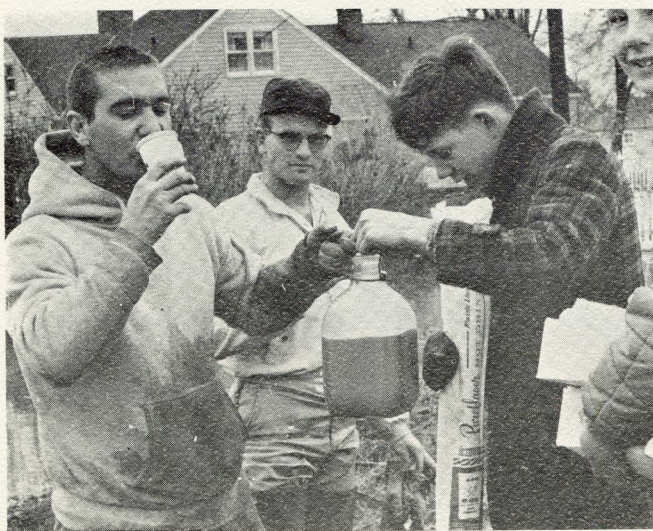


In Hillview Village, transportation was where you found it and these people found it in a boat. Traveling to get to dryer ground they found this the only means of getting there and staying dry.



14th and Holmes Required Many Hours and Man

Below, workers take a well-earned break as they down some refreshing chocolate milk.



The spot that gained the most that the canal divides. The br of ice or debris that came floatir the Gamble Food Store sign. So the hole was plugged again thus tons of sand and fill dirt to this ed operators by many Idaho Fa were donated by potato packers known.

The canal was higher than when of the bridge and the water man

The flood was the topic of conve were deserted. Many busineses "Flood". Latest developments w Follow-up accounts with detailed the center of the picture we can Nothing in recent years has bro



Many Men Before the Water Level Dropped

The most attention along the Idaho Canal was the corner of 14th and Holmes. It is at this point
 The bridge over Holmes helped to complicate the process since it managed to snag any piece
 floating down the canal. In the panoramic picture above we see a large pile of ice just above
 sign. Several times the bank gave way at this point pouring water into the street. Each time
 gain thus saving the homes in that area. Across the canal we see large army trucks that hauled
 to this critical point. Trucks and other pieces of equipment were also donated, along with skill-
 Idaho Falls construction companies and businesses. The many thousands of burlap potato sacks
 packers in the area. Just how many and what the cost of these bags, will probably never be

man when this photograph was taken. The high wall of sand bags can be seen along both sides
 water mark along the concrete retaining wall also indicates how high the water got.

of conversation and concern by everyone in Idaho Falls. The streets in downtown Idaho Falls
 businesses had hurried hand written signs tacked on their doors saying, "Gone to Fight The
 nents were flashed to the townspeople by the local radio stations: KID, KTEE, KUPI and KIFI.
 detailed pictures and stories were covered by The Post-Register, and KID-TV and KIFI-TV. In
 e we can see the on-the-spot mobil station wagon of KID as they "covered the waterfront".
 has brought such a concentrated community effort as the flood did.



U. S. Representative Ralph Harding flies from Washington to have a first hand look at the flood damage in East Idaho. Harding visited Idaho Falls and the Pocatello area.



Women did their part in the flood ranging from helping with the heavy sandbagging operations to spending long hours making soffee, hot chocolate, cookies and sandwiches to help tired flood workers during their long hours at their stations.



Almost tragic, is this picture of a youngster riding the back end of a truck taking him from his home in Falls Valley. His only possession — a game of "SORRY".



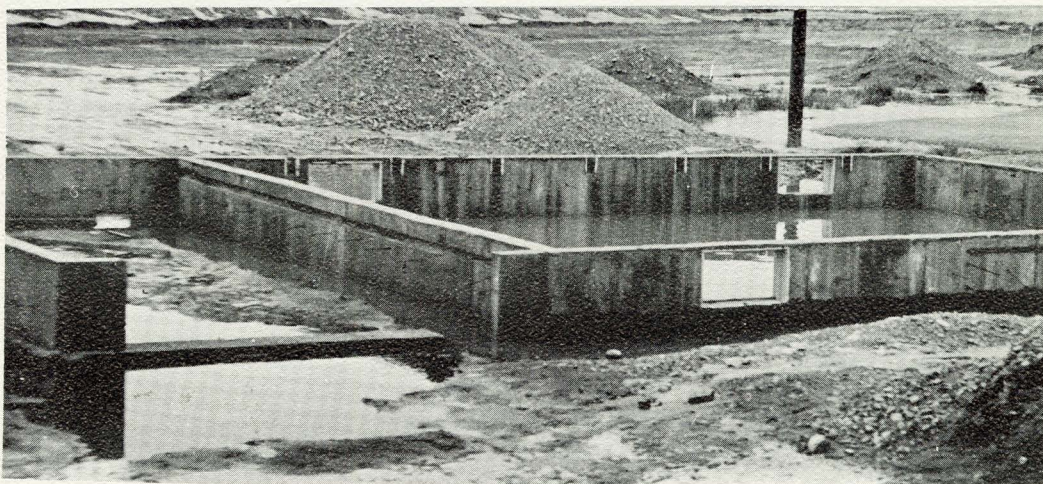
Throughout the flooded sections of town, clean up crews were organized to help those families whose homes were flooded. On the left we see three helpful women working at the home of Robert Mercer in Ammon. They are Mrs. Calvin McBride, Mrs. Mercer and Mrs. Blaine Morgan. And below are Mrs. V. V. Hendrix and Mrs. F. W. Gelsleichter working on their hands and knees to restore the shine to Mrs. Gelsleichter's floor.





It would appear as though this pile was shoveled into a local home by hand. However, it is the formation taken by the snow, ice and silt after a home drained of the water. This is in Hidden Village.

No damage here, but it was only lucky. The house under construction was only far enough along to make a giant bathtub to collect the floodwater.





Safety was where people found it and one homeowner found safety in the bathtub. It appeared the only place dry enough to keep books from getting ruined.

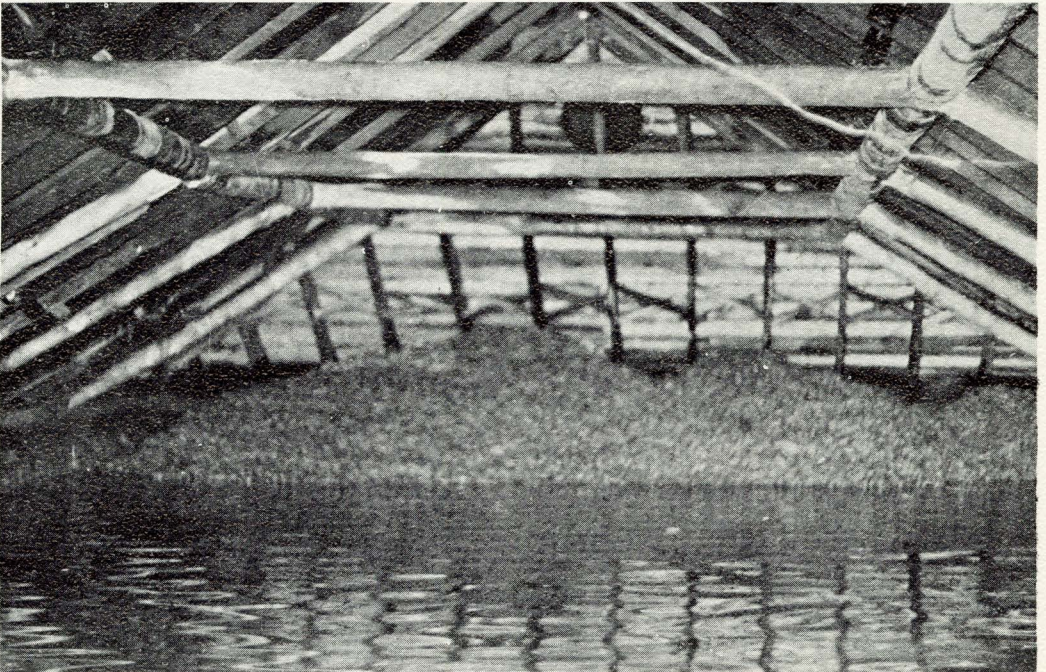
Everyone pitched in to help fight the floods and the picture of the one-legged volunteer above, was almost typical. Anyone that felt they could assist in any way helped.





This barn in Sugar City didn't have much floor space left after the Teton River overflowed its banks near there. The farm area in the region suffered heavy damage and loss to crops, livestock and equipment.

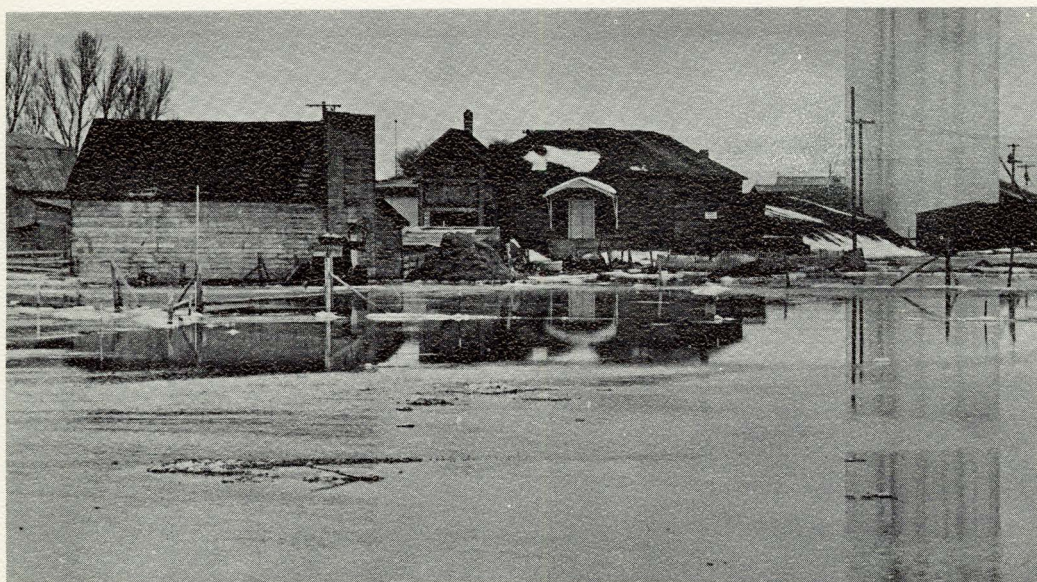
Many hundreds of pounds of the area's rich potato crop ended up in cellars like this — inundated with the flood waters. Some of the crop was salvaged, but a great deal was lost.





In the Upper Valley, things were pretty dismal too. This is the view from the top of the overpass just to the north of Sugar City, about 35 miles from Idaho Falls.

This farmyard near Sugar City is almost mirrored in the water surrounding it from the Teton River overflow.





Taking to high ground, these cattle, near Blackfoot, find refuge on a small knoll. Many livestock couldn't weather the flooding and died, but most were saved.

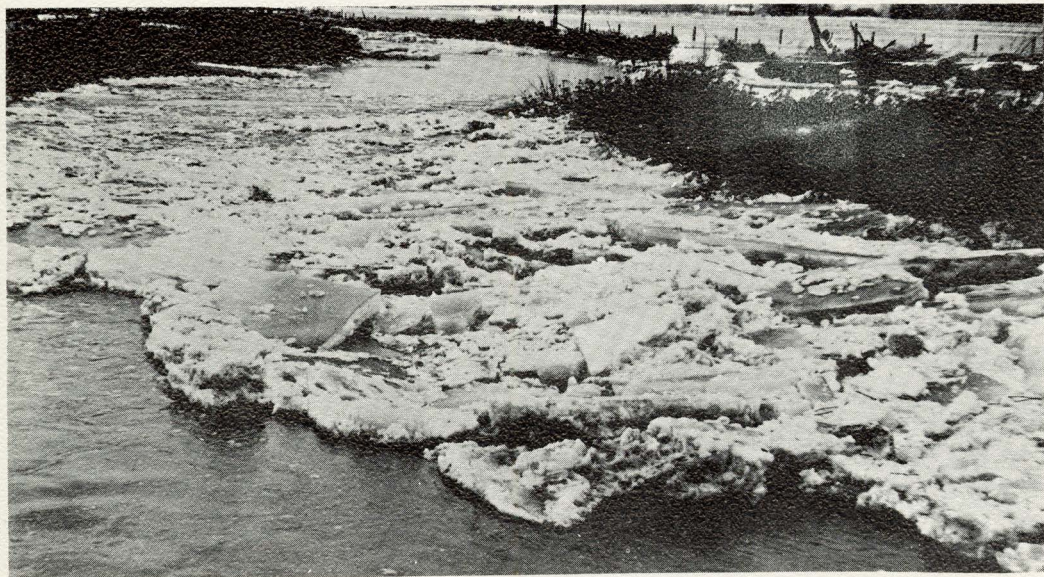
Appearing to be an island in a large body of water, is this scene of the Idaho Canal near Taylor. The canal flows from left to right in the picture and the large wash is where a cement canal headgate once stood. The banks also washed out on the other side.

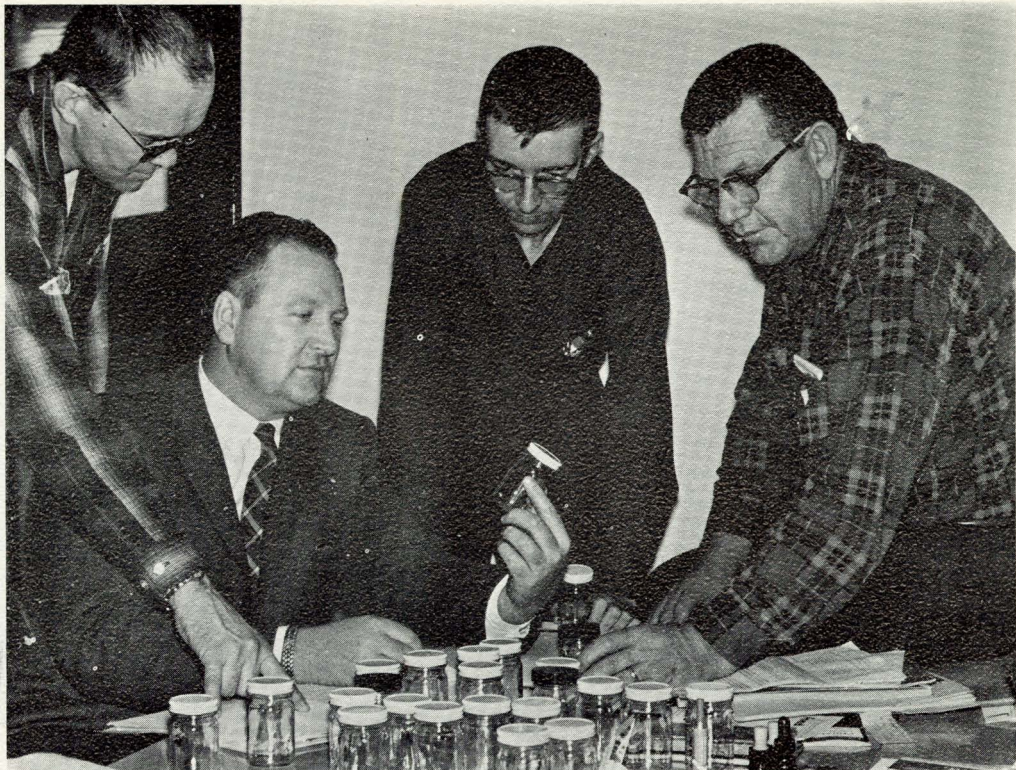




Everyone pitched in to help avert overflow throughout the city. Here, high school youngsters have large ice tong to help take chunks of ice out of the water to avoid jamming under bridges.

These giant ice chunks were what was left after heavy blasting was done here in the Lincoln area to loosen the ice and allow water to flow in the Sand Creek Channel. The efforts were for naught, though.





Checking drinking water for contamination are Howard Burkhardt, regional sanitary engineer of the Idaho Department of Public Health; Dr. John W. Casper, director of the Bonneville County-City of Idaho Falls Health Department; Bruce J. Held, industrial hygiene engineer with AEC's Idaho Operations Office and William S. Cole, city-county sanitarian. Constant checks were made through the flood.

This home, along the banks of Sand Creek in Lincoln found itself completely surrounded by water. The home remained this way for several days.





Out visiting could have been the case here, although with the situation in Hillview Village the way it was, it seemed doubtful. The youth rowing the boat can be seen passing a street sign.

Early in the flood stages, before the impact was felt throughout the city, some people found the Sunday boating pleasurable in flooded vacant lots. The above picture was taken in Jennie Lee Addition. No heavy flooding occurred there, although many basements were full of water.

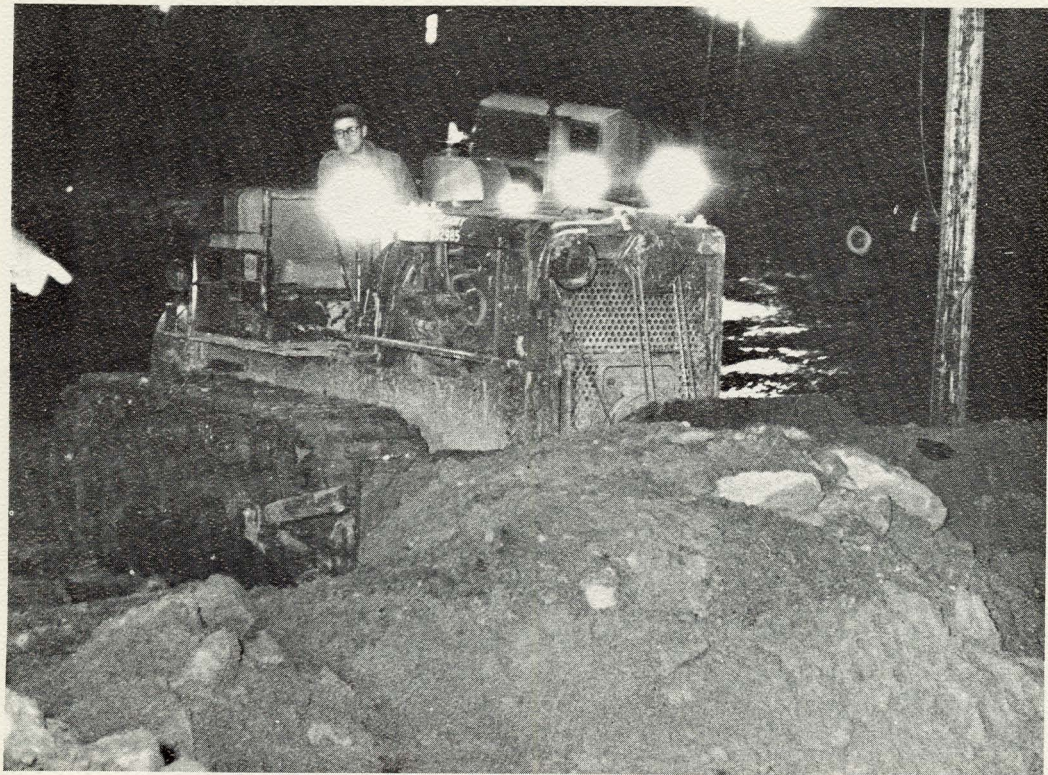




Levity kept its touch throughout the flood and these young volunteers were weary with the heavy work of sandbagging, found time to smile for a photographer.

Early Sunday night, the first night of flooding, this was the scene at the turn from 1st Street into Hidden Village. The box number was almost covered and the water was flowing almost too fast to walk in.





Day and night had no division to workers battling the floods. This piece of heavy equipment was photographed while it labored against water at 14th and Holmes where a bridge was the scene of an intense fight.

National Guardsmen and reservists were called out to help in the disaster, and here they are shown sandbagging along portions of a canal bank to try to keep homes in the area dry.





This store, near a canal that overflowed its banks, closed abruptly. Although the store closed, valiant efforts saved it from any serious damage and it served as headquarters for some of the workers.

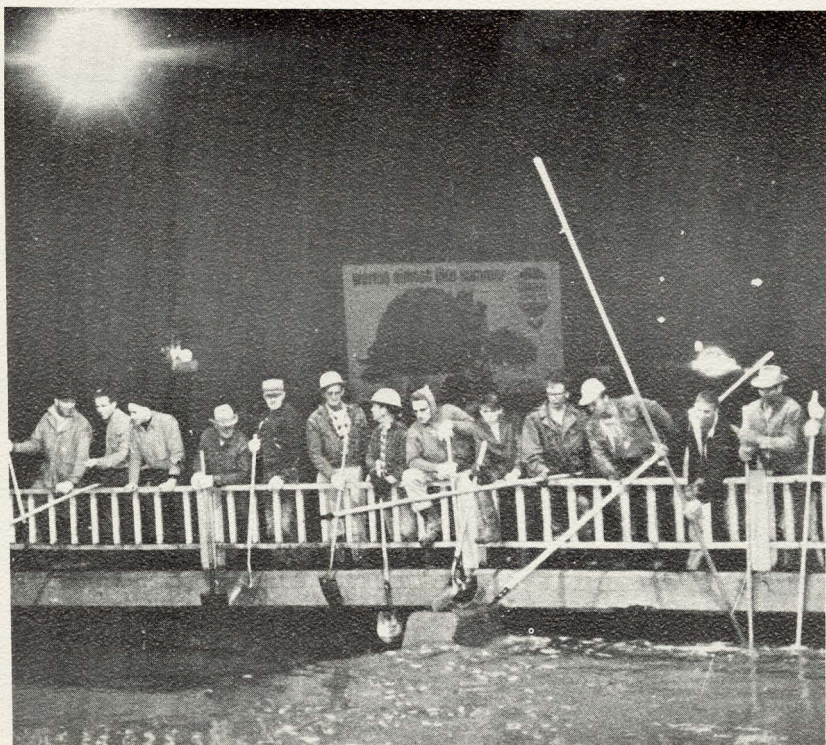
The Utah-Idaho Sugar factory at Lincoln looked like a giant brick island standing in a large body of water. The factory was surrounded, and although much water got into the building, extremely serious damage was avoided.





Speed limits in this area were certainly observed. The water was too deep for most vehicles and those that could get through had to take it slow.

Similar to the picture of the bridge at Lincoln is this one at 14th St. and Holmes Ave. where workers spent the entire day and most of the night battling giant chunks of ice, sandbagging and doing everything possible to avert a disaster in that area.

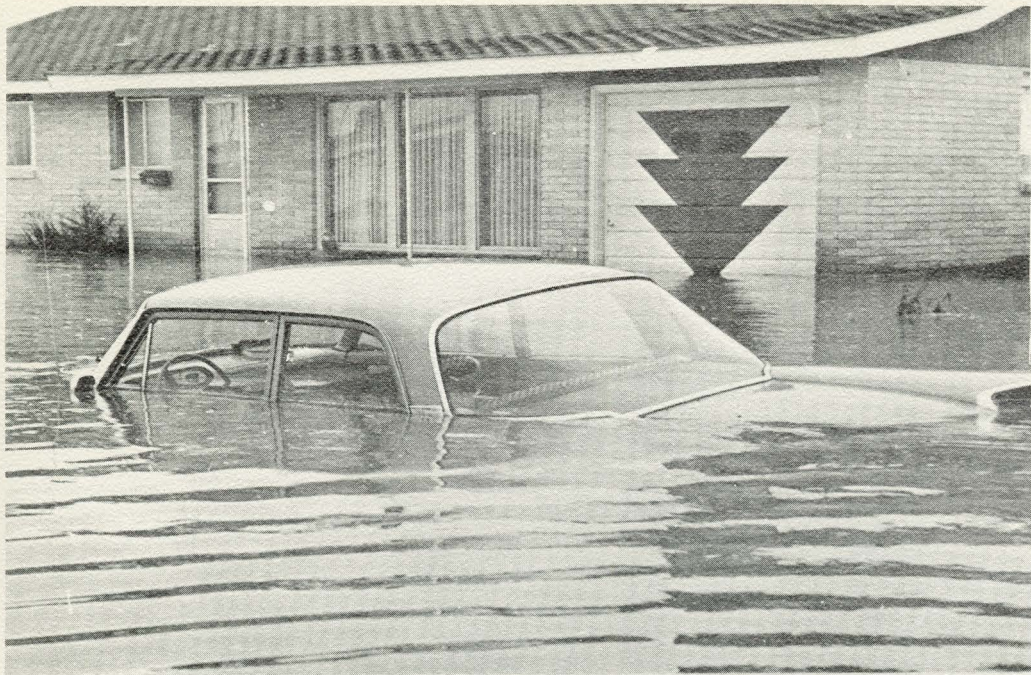




Early Sunday, Feb. 11, these workers were stationed at the Sand Creek bridge in Lincoln, battling what appeared, then, to be a part of the yearly annual flooding problem that occurred. Within a few hours the scene was to spread throughout most of the valley.

Early Monday, Feb. 12, this was the scene near Falls Valley and Hidden Village where people were still trying to get a few valuables out of their homes while the water was still rising.

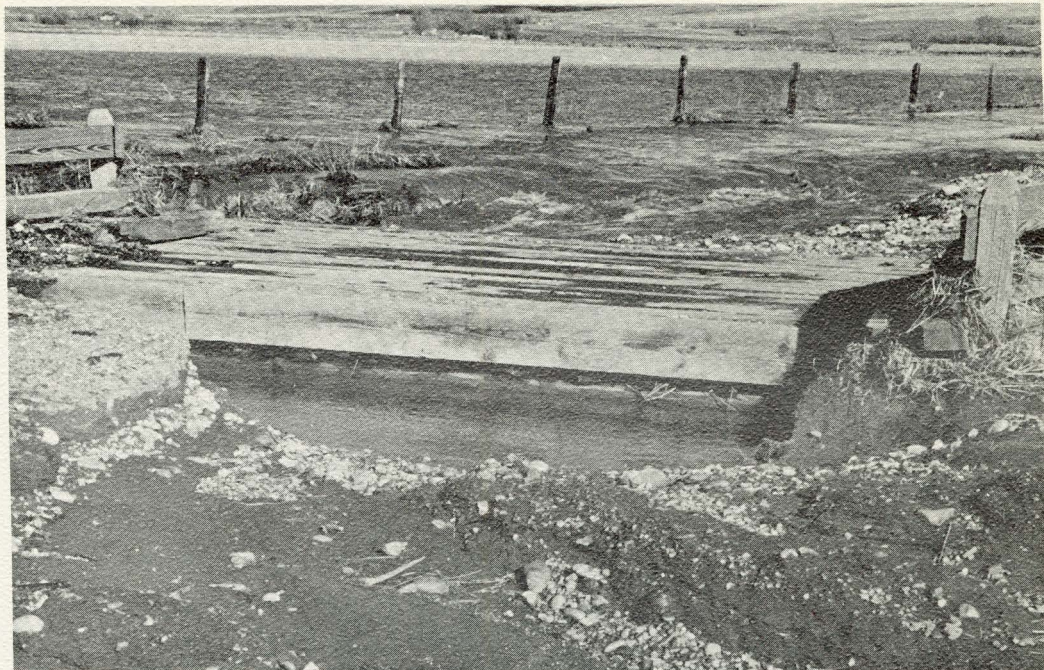




Property damage ranged from cars, as shown above to minor items in households. The above car was in Falls Valley although in some areas the water was deep enough to cover entire vehicles.

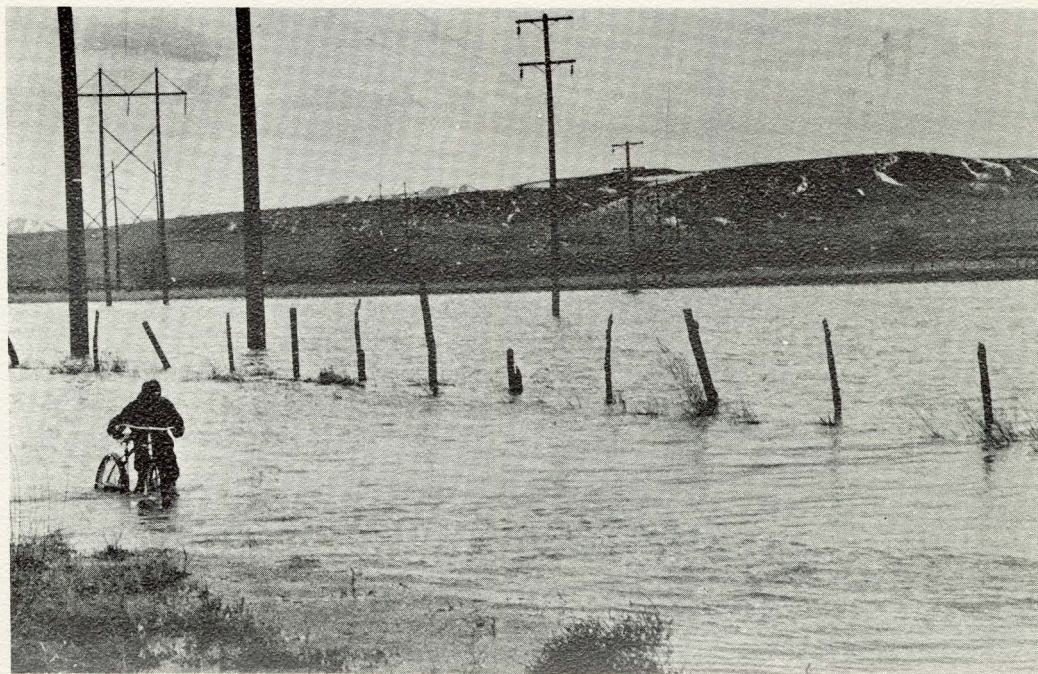
Even newspapers were delivered the hard way during the flood. Here a Post-Register newspaper carrier boy makes a delivery while his "Chauffeur" waits in the rowboat.





What was once a road, turned into this a couple of days after the water started receding just above Ammon. This road will take a great deal of repair work before it is travelable.

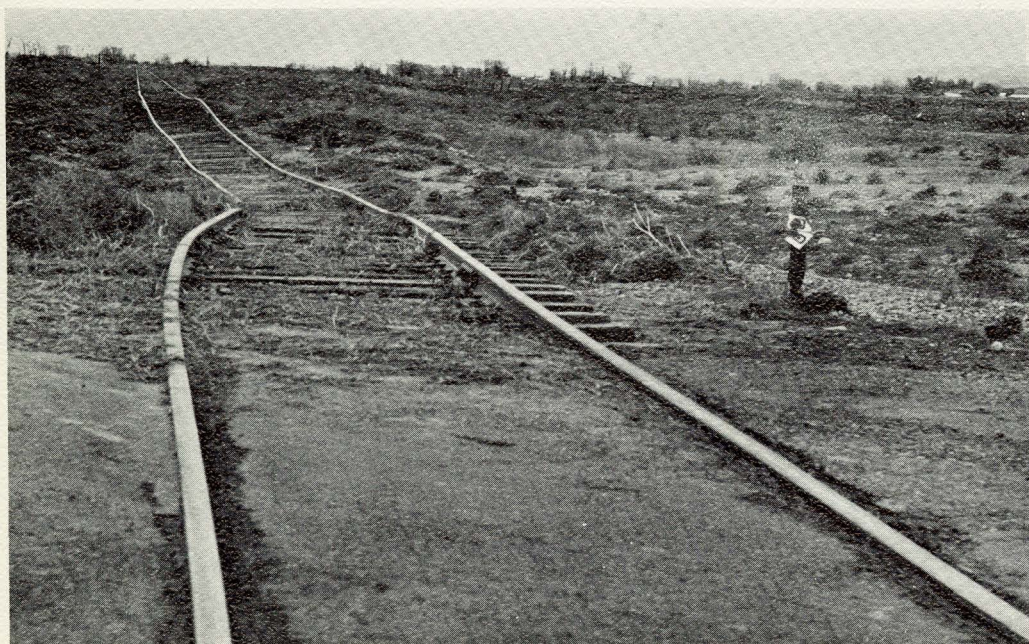
A small lad near Blackfoot saves a prize possession as he pushes his bicycle through deep water to safer and higher ground.





Pretty touchy driving occurred in some areas. Here, a car maneuvers over a washed-out road just south of Ammon.

Railroad tracks were not left out of the flood damage category. Here, near Goshen tracks show how the waters affected them. In many areas this occurred with railroad damage alone hitting \$1 million.





Coming to the aid of the hungry flood workers were the Red Cross, L.D.S. Welfare Plan, Salvation Army and many other organized and unorganized groups. Above we see the Red Cross canteen in the Ammon Village Hall in action. Rose Heinhart, Mrs. Joseph O. Payne and Mrs. Don Bingham are servicing two unidentified men. Below is the Red Cross Donut Wagon at 14th and Holmes.





The speed of the water roaring across this road is indicative of many areas. Waters, in some places, moved almost too swift for a man to keep his footing in.



The city of Rexburg found a little more than the average amount of water in its streets during the flood. Above, crews, using a large pumper, try to get some of the water from the town's streets.

The floods prompted all kinds of sights. Here a photographer scurries through water in search of pictures while others scurry in search of safety.



. . . And so, despite the fact water has receded in all areas affected by the ravaging floods, the work of putting back into some semblance, homes and farms that were ruined by the waters, continued.

Many hundreds of dollars worth of furnishings were thrown out by families. Mattresses soaked, furniture ruined and peeled, small items completely destroyed, were hauled to dumping areas in trucks.

In the rural regions farmers bleakly started the gigantic task of cleaning up farmyards, dumping potatoes from cellars, getting rid of dead livestock and poultry and with the coming of warmer weather, they toiled long hours in fields trying to revamp them. Many of them had deep washes that needed leveling. Many were laden with debris — fence posts, rocks, barbed wire, anything that the water could carry and deposit — and weeks were required to straighten things up again.

All in all, the damages mounted into the millions. Many of the losses will likely never be known. Many are slowly, but surely being counted. But all will take time, lots of it, to regain.



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