

Photos tell story of record rain

It rained intermittently all day on Friday, Aug. 6. By early Saturday morning, the rainfall turned into a deluge and obliterated a record that had stood for nearly a century in south-west Iowa.

The storm that hit Council Bluffs and the surrounding area was an historic and memorable one.

In a span of less than 24 hours, it dumped an official measurement of 10.48 inches of rain on the area, breaking the record set in 1903.

Area residents awoke to find a mess left in Mother Nature's path.

Streets and intersections were flooded, retaining walls were washed away, bridges were damaged, cars were seen floating down city streets, basement walls collapsed, parks were under water, sewers backed up and, in some instances, people were forced from their homes.

Many residents saw a lifetime of memories washed away by the flooding.

But such storms can also bring out the best in people.

By mid-morning Saturday, residents were helping their neighbors clean up after the storm. Cleanup efforts for some were completed in a few days.

Others are still struggling as they try to return

their families' lives and living quarters to pre-flood status.

"I've never seen it this bad," said Council Bluffs Mayor Thomas Hanafan shortly after the rains ended.

He had taken office just months before a series of tornadoes devastated the west side of the city in 1988.

Extra firefighters and police officers answered the call to help deal with the emergency situation.

Red Cross and Salvation Army personnel and volunteers immediately mobilized. A disaster declaration brought federal and state officials into the area to help assess damage and offer assistance.

As the mayor noted, there is no way to adequately prepare for this type of situation.

Area residents will long remember and want their children to remember the record-breaking storm.

Thanks to the photographs submitted by Nonpareil readers, this special section will help capture and preserve those special events.

Those who submitted flood photos may pick them up at The Daily Nonpareil office, 117 Pearl St., beginning Monday. Photos cannot be mailed back.



Photo by Duane E. Whitbeck

Flooded fields stretch east toward the South Expressway as trees and a grain elevator are reflected in the water.



Photo by Landon Knauss

Two men who live in the neighborhood canoe down the 1600 block of South 11th Street in Council Bluffs.

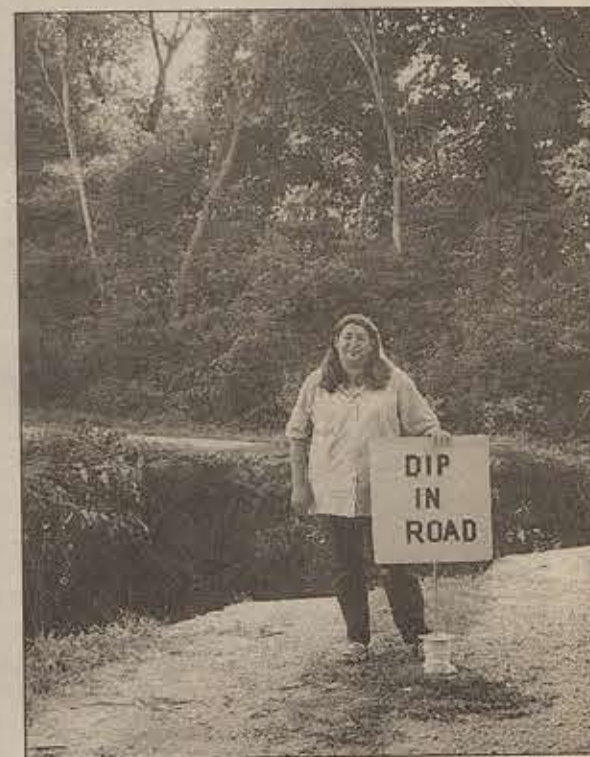


Photo by John Steenson

Disaster is often washed down with levity as evidenced by Cathy Steenson of Council Bluffs, who posed by the sign, "dip in road."



Photo by Landon Knauss



Photo by Matt Koppold

Above, some flood survivors found themselves paddling up a creek until the waters receded. At left, Paul Smith and his son, Tyler, waded through the flood waters near 1908 S. 11th St. in Council Bluffs.



Photo by Diane Shamblen

Devin Swift, a true flood survivor, makes like Tom Sawyer and floats down Avenue F in Council Bluffs.



Photo by Glenn L. Snipes

Virgil Lake, 601 Valley View Drive, leans on his Jet Ski as his daughter looks over damage to her new car at about 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 7. The car in the background was washed down Mosquito Creek about 40 feet.



Photos by Ed Tucker

Above and below, the lot surrounding First Assembly of God Church in Council Bluffs quickly turned into lakefront property after the record rainfall. The view below is from the intersection of Highways 275 and 92.



Photo by Bobbi Hood

At left, the American flag was unscathed by the flood waters at the First Assembly of God Church, seen from the intersection of Highways 92 and 275. At right, the church, which is located at 3320 Harry Langdon Blvd., has become a veritable island as it is surrounded by the flooded Mosquito Creek.



Photo by Bill Subler

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Photo by Ed Tucker

Lewis Central High School's fields were swamped by the record-setting rain of more than 10 inches. The school district estimated damage at more than \$1.3 million.



Photo by Fran Hough



Photo by Karen Batten

Above, the flood left a muddy mess at Lewis Central's new school site in its wake. At left, a temporary "Titan River" flows along the site of the future new Lewis Central High School Saturday, Aug. 7, as the current buildings, in background, sustained damage.

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At right, Hillary Forristall, 16, daughter of Diane and Gary Forristall of Macedonia, inspects the family's flooded farm fields. The family estimated that the water level reached 8 feet high, seeping into the grain bins, something that hasn't happened in 90 years, they said. The rains also flooded their feedlot, causing their 72 cattle to break through the fence. All but two, presumed drowned, had been returned. Below right, Dominic Long, 4, son of Billie Jo (right) and Todd Long of Council Bluffs, braves flooded Atlantic Avenue in Council Bluffs. Below left, Kay Christ's farmland, farmed by Jimmy Karr, was submerged by the flood waters. The view is looking north from Pottawattamie County G-66 on the Pioneer Trail from the east side of Keg Creek.



Photo by Diane Forristall



Photo by Todd Long



Photo by Richard Eames

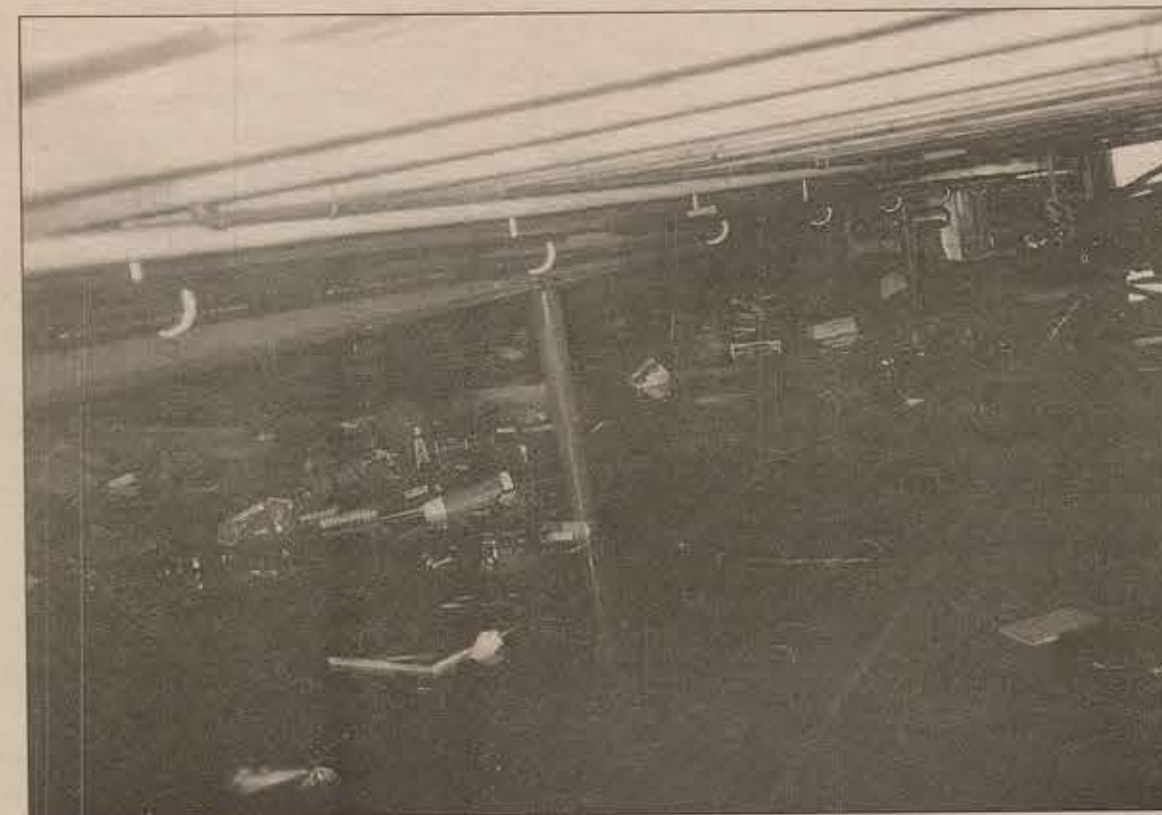


Photo by Maria Bowen

Family possessions, including two basketballs and a paint can, float in the flooded basement at 2625 S. 13th Street.



Photo by Maria Bowen

Everyone pitched in to work on a flooded basement at 2625 S. 13th St.



Photo by Maria Bowen

Above, flooded basements, like Maria Bowen's at 2625 S. 13th, were a common sight after the flood. At right, like many Council Bluffs residents, Barb Brown, 1608 S. 11th St., had extensive water damage from the record-setting rains.



Photo by Barb Brown

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Photo by Carol Powers

Carol Powers' home on Seventh Avenue in Council Bluffs received extensive water damage during the record-setting rains. A television and stereo were among the items damaged.

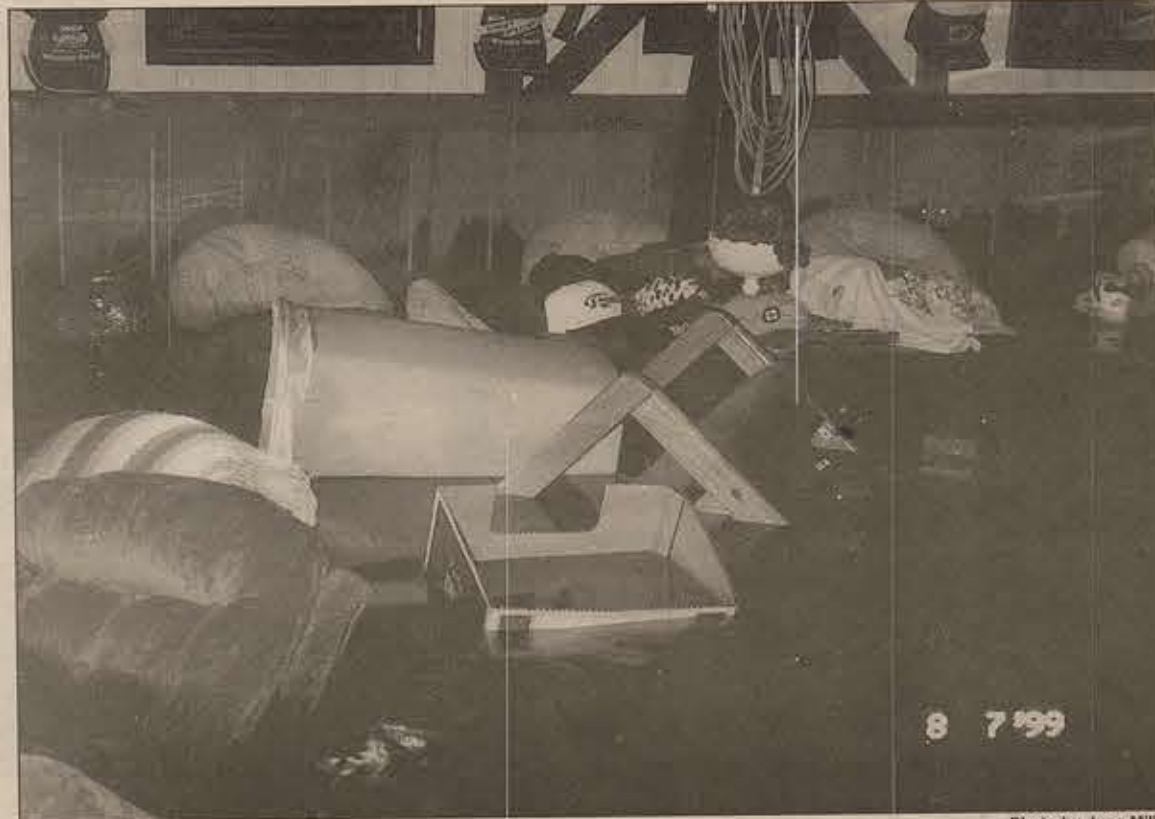


Photo by June Miller

Furniture floating in the basement was an unwelcome sight for June Miller at 2615 S. 12th St. in Council Bluffs.



Photo by David Brewer

The basement at the home of Terri Le Baugh and David Brewer of Council Bluffs did not escape the rising waters.



Photo by Carol Powers

Flood waters filled Carol Powers' car that was parked in her attached garage on Seventh Avenue in Council Bluffs.



Photos by Darlene Rowe

Above, flood waters crept into the back yard of Mike and Kristy Hassay's home at 1116 College Road in Council Bluffs. Below, the rising water can be seen from the Interstate 480 bridge overlooking the Missouri River. Harveys Casino Hotel is located at left on the eastern side of the river.



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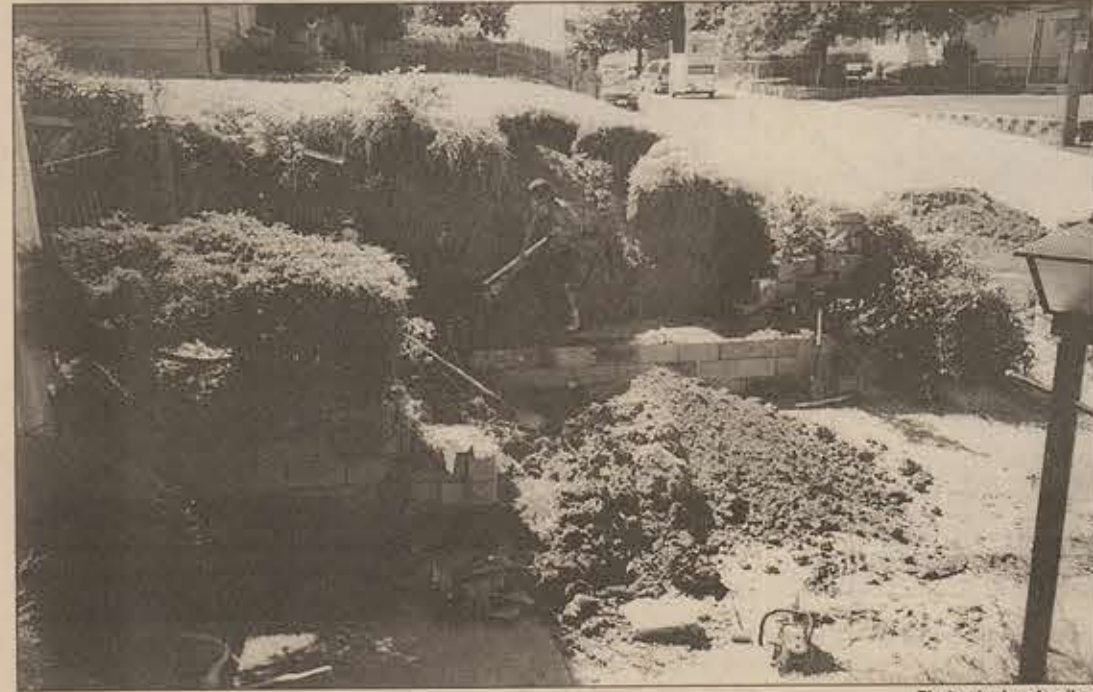
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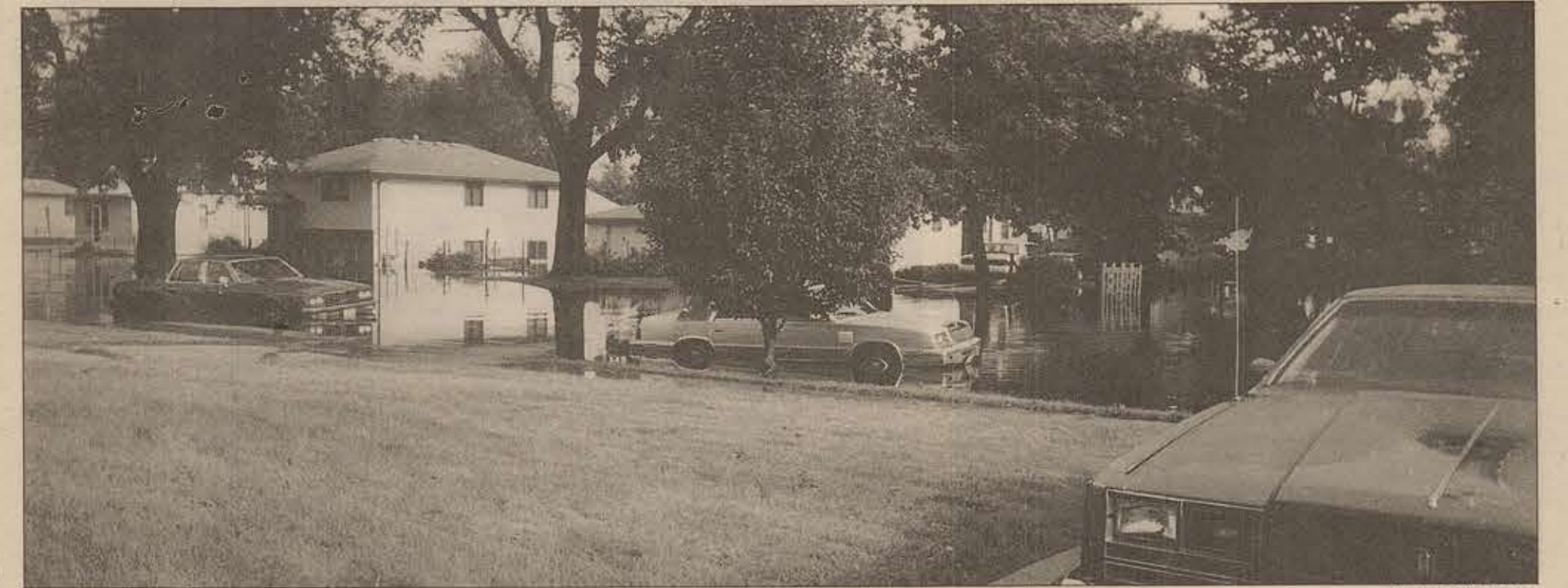
Above, the force of water from heavy rains destroyed the retaining wall at the Council Bluffs home of Leo Lenihan, 349 Midland Drive. At right, a man-sized hole was created by the flood waters along the retaining wall and fence at Lenihan's home.



At right, two 80-foot walls that tumbled down at the Allan E. Jahn residence, 115 Fifth Ave., had been in place for more than 40 years. Jahn said his insurance would not cover the cost to rebuild them.

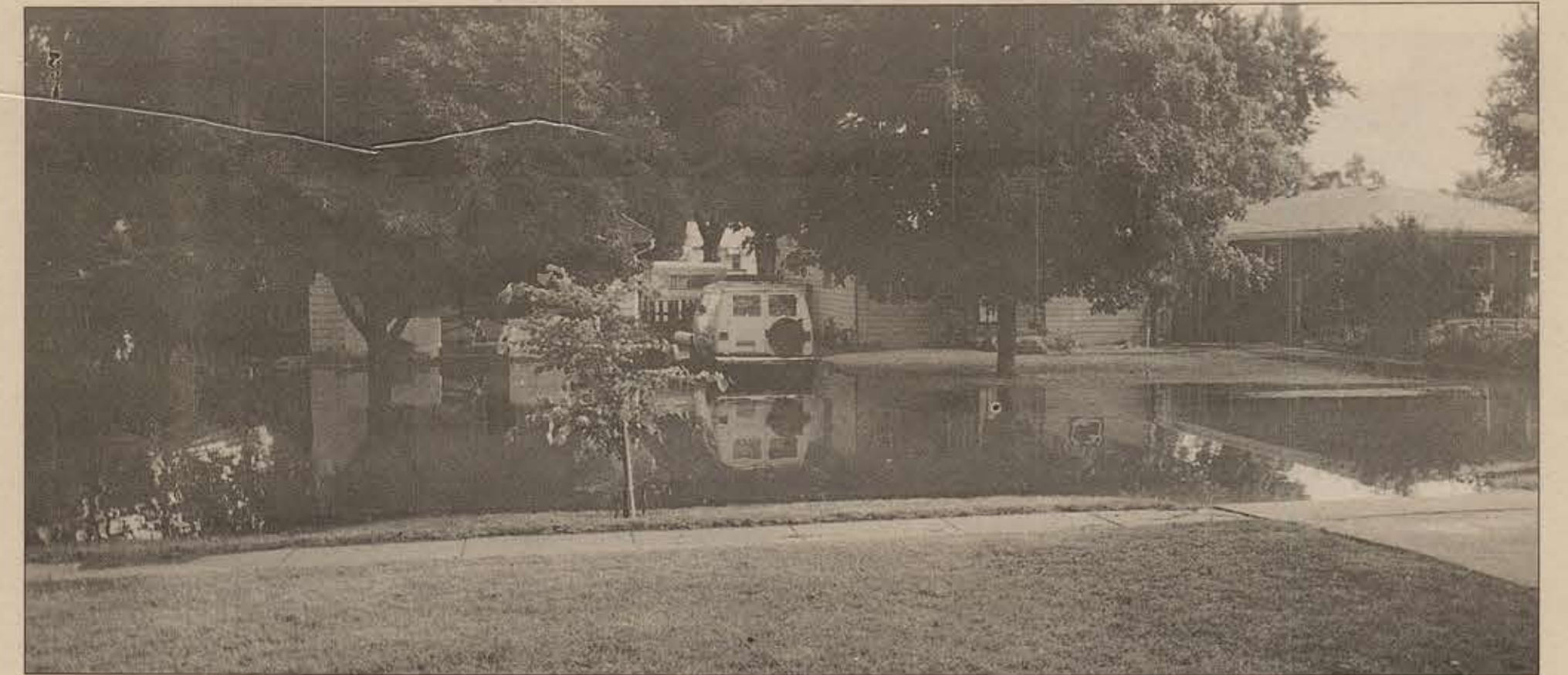


Photo by Allan E. Jahn



Photos by Pete McGinn

Above, homes were surrounded by water, rather than concrete, at the intersection of 27th Street and Avenue E after the record-setting rains fell. Below, 10 hours after the rains ceased, streets were still heavily flooded in the area of 27th Street and Avenue E.



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Photo by Dan Madsen

A bridge to the Mike Webster residence on Sunnydale Road was washed away, leaving only debris and a chasm.



Photo by Roger Wells

Area residents walk across the Mall Drive Mosquito Creek bridge Saturday, Aug. 7, with Valley View Drive and Interstate 80 visible in the background. Mall and Valley View drives reopened later in the day after flood waters receded.



Photo by Mary Lee Wells

Logs pile up in Mosquito Creek on the north side of the Mall Drive bridge, east of Mall of the Bluffs, forming a mini dam. Interstate 80 and Valley View Drive are in the background.



Photo by S.K. Brown

Bill Brown cleans debris from the sewer grate near his father-in-law's home at the intersection of North 15th Street and Avenue I.



Photo by Michaela Kanger

A power pole and street sign were submerged at Avenue E and 17th Street in Council Bluffs.



Photo by John Steenson

Paul Steenson and his nephew, Bill Steenson, construct a boardwalk over a swollen creek bank.



Photo by Carol Powers

For many homeowners like Carol Powers on Seventh Avenue in Council Bluffs, cleanup was in order after the rains.

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At right, heavy rains temporarily altered the look of the No. 8 green at Westwood Park Golf Course. Below right, flood waters submerged cars at the intersection of 12th Street and 28th Avenue in Council Bluffs. Below, ornamental deer appear to take a long drink from a flooded lawn on South Ninth Street.



Photo by Bill Spitznagle



Photo by Floyd Claussen



Photo by Frank Wolfe



Photo by Karen Butler

At left, workers assess the flooding next to the four-lane bridge being built over Mosquito Creek at Madison Avenue. Below, the area around Eighth Avenue provided a temporary recreational area for some boaters.



Photo by Art Dunlavy



Photo by Albert Rothermund

At left, water flooded the parking lot filled with new and used vehicles at Bluffs Toyota, 3554 South Expressway, in Council Bluffs.

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Photo by Landon Knauss

Above, Paul Smith's weathered look stemmed from the amount of damage that occurred in his basement on the south side of Council Bluffs because of the flooding. His sump pump couldn't keep up with the heavy water flow. Above right, Burt and LaVonn McColleston's house is surrounded by cresting Silver Creek flood waters at about 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7. The family was able to save the gazebo from floating downstream. At right, on Sunday, Aug. 8, after flood waters had receded, erosion is visible along Silver Creek one mile northeast of Silver City.



Photo by Jennifer Smith



Photo by Jennifer Smith



Photo by Frank Wolfe

At left, the flood turned the thoroughfare of 12th Street and 28th Avenue in Council Bluffs into a stream. Below left, Mosquito Creek in Council Bluffs spilled over its banks into the yard of Vern and Judy Lake at 601 Valley View Drive. Below, Rita Milner's house, located at 2801 S. 12th St., which has no basement, had up to 6 inches of water inside.



Photo by Judy Lake



Photo by Rita Milner

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Photo by Rita Milner

Above, flood water at the intersection of 28th Avenue and 12th Street in Council Bluffs measured 28 inches deep in some places. Above right, heavy rains leave water across North 16th Street in Council Bluffs.



Photo by Michaela Kanger



Photo by Carol Powers

The flood waters knew no bounds as evidenced by the damage to Carol Powers' home on Seventh Avenue in Council Bluffs.



Photo by Landon Knauss

Above, the view of Lewis Central High School from the south shows water several feet deep inundating the buildings. The school sustained at least \$1.3 million in damage. At left, the intersection of 19th Avenue and South 11th Street in Council Bluffs was flooded after the record-setting rains.



Photo by Dagmar C. Nielsen

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Above, the water was several feet deep at 16th Avenue and 11th Street near Jonesy's.

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