

WE SAW THE DIKE BREAK

By Freda Love and Finnis Love, 11 and 12 years old

We were playing out in the yard when it happened. There was seven of us at our brothers, Billy Barnes, age 10, Sandra sis sisters age 8, Marie and Richard age three.

We heard a noise and looked up and saw a cloud of dust. As the dust settled we saw a wave of water just like the ocean. We ran and told our mothers, then started getting things together. We had every advantage over the people on Denver Court for we saw it coming and lived right by the tracks.

Columbia Slough, right by our house was as wide as a highway. We ran for the railroad as instructed in the notice in case anything happened. However, we were reassured of our safety.

The crowd was moving int he direction of University Homes. Sick people and all. .

"The rest of them are still there, covered with water," Bruce Douglas, a refugee, said.

Douglas said the traffic jam was made worse because many of the first motorists out waited at the xit for the red traffic signal to turn green.

"If they had gone straight through the red light instead of waiting for it to change each time, more cars would have gotten out." Douglas stated.

He abandoned his own pickup truck at the bottom of the exitway ramp and waded out, carrying two of his three children. His wife and other child accompanied him. He said it had taken him 15 minutes to drive eight blocks through the heavy traffic.

Douglas added sadly that he had made the last payment on the truck only last Friday and had th efinal receipt in his pocket when he saw the truck go out of sight beneath the water.

"I'll sell it cheap now," he remarked.