

THE FLOOD OF "95"
From the journal of Bill Wink
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January 11th 1995

The flood of "95" started on the 7th of January, a Saturday. Actually it started Friday the 6th. (Actually it started January 1st but didn't turn for the worse until the 6th) Today is the 11th and it is still raining. These storms came from the southwest. All of California is in serious trouble from Laguna Beach to Sacramento.

By Sunday (the 8th) the fence across the drainage ditch has been forced against the mouth of the two culverts (one 4' diameter and one 3' diameter). Sylvia and I have gone into the garage to raise everything up a foot. We are being flooded. You can watch the water coming up. The wood pile is a drift and it is still poring.

Les (my son-in-law) comes and we try to remove the fence – no. We get fence stakes to mark the driveway which is now flooded and in spots with as much as 2 feet of water. This is so if we need to get out we will know where to drive.

The water is still rising and we are having a monsoon. The wind is blowing; we have lost 4 trees by Saturday. One has been replanted –top first.

My God I knew it was possible but guess I figured it would never happen.

7:20 pm Sunday night, the water has been rising and is overflowing into the surface drain. I figure if I can keep it (the drain) open it will handle the overflow until we can do something about the fence.

I went out to check the drain – the water has receded to the point I can see the top of the hog panel, Sylvia calls Les. By 8:00pm it (the blockage) is out – the crisis is over. Sunday night I slept all night.

Monday the power goes out. Judy comes over with Dale and we take a ride to look at the water. It has gone down a lot for us but is still rising in other places.

It is raining at 6,000 ft. The snow is melting.

Judy and family are without power until approximately 4pm Tuesday.

Uncle Earl and I haven't fed the cows for 2 days (Saturday and Sunday) Monday we feed in the rain. Many cows are missing. Tuesday the wind has blown a tarp off and one stack (of hay) is collapsing. Trouble.

Tuesday afternoon I take my pick-up back to the barn to feed my animals and get fire wood. It's mud soup, the trucks front end sinks to the axel.

The tractor won't budge it.

Wednesday it has rained from Friday the 6th to Wednesday the 11th 18.62 inches.

Today Uncle Earl helps with the truck. I have dug out a lot around my truck and this time the tractor pulls it out. The tractor has been a real hero as it pulled the fence away from the culverts too.

The rain is steady.

Thursday morning around 7:30 it stops.

All the cows have returned.

More rain is coming, clean drainage ditches. The ground is saturated and there is fear of mud flows.

Thursday night it starts to rain again.

Today is Friday the 13th and I have some side stories.

Judy tells they keep hearing clacking noise; they turned off anything that made noise. Finally they went outside. The noise was coming from the creek. It was the force of the water rolling boulders down the creek. They also had to take some skirting off of their home to allow a small stream to flow under their home.

Didn't feed today, rained 1.62" during the night.

Dug a ditch by the barn to divert water that was flowing out of the ground under my barn and where my tractor was parked

Rained all day today, from 8:30am until 10:15pm it rained 4.05" and was raining when I went to bed.

Today is the 14th 6:30am it is not raining, I'm sure we will feed today.

Son Mike starts at the Fire Academy today – go Mike.

We fed and it held off raining until we were finished.

Today is the 15th and the weather is changing. It is only about 40 degrees this morning. All during the storm it stayed in the 50s and 60s.

Last night at 5:30pm as the pineapple express was leaving and an Alaskan cold front was

approaching a tornado watch for Lake County was issued until 10pm.

Too much excitement!

Total rainfall after 14 days straight rain 30.62" (Just for 14 days).

Oh, on Monday we had thunder and lightning. Lightning struck the school district office. Knocked out their computers. The clap of thunder was so loud I thought it was going to break the windows. You could actually feel it.

Today is the 16th and it did not rain to speak of yesterday. This morning there is frost. I guess the flood of "95" is over.

In December 1955 it rained 31.64" and since more rain is forecast for January I suppose we will surpass that record as it has already rained nearly that much.

Today is February 2nd there has been no rain since January 30th and this morning I can see blue sky. We had 39.12" of rain during the month of January I'll never see that much again in one month.

Lots of flooding in Europe right now. Also the Kobe Japan earthquake was a couple weeks ago. Those people have problems. The O. J. Simpson trial has started too.

Yesterday I took pictures of us feeding the cattle. Today the 2nd, there were record highs of 74degrees in San Francisco and 94 degrees in Los Angles. The temperature is very mild and it seems like spring.

February was wonderful but March let us have it again.

Late Wednesday night the 8th and Thursday morning the 9th – wind, power outages and flooding. This time we had more widespread flooding than we did in January.

Trees blew down in Middletown, Willard Lipscom's bridge across St. Helena Creek floated away. Sylvia did not open her store. Uncle Earl and I went out to check on Bob. Flooding everywhere. Grange Road was flooded from the Glider Port entrance to the hill in places with over a foot of water. Hardester's Hidden Valley Store's parking lot, the pro-shop parking lot and the road were all flooded.

The wind banged the gate and knocked my rain gauge to the ground twice so rainfall amount is based on other people's information but I'm sure that that night it rained a good seven inches.

My sister-in-law, Millie, called at 6:15am that Thursday morning and as I was trotting out to the phone in my BVDs, unbeknownst to me the roof in the laundry room had leaked. I hit the water and the next thing I was looking at the ceiling.

The rainfall season goes from July 1 thru June 30 every year. From July 1, 1994 thru June 30, 1995 I measured at my ranch total rainfall of 87.13"

Bill Wink © 1995
Middletown, Ca 95461



THE TREE THAT REPLANTED ITSELF



THE BLOCKAGE REMOVED



SURGAR LOAF CREEK - THE DRAINAGE



THE 3' AND 4' CULVERTS THAT WERE BLOCKED



THE SURFACE DRAIN



BEHIND OUR HOUSE AND THE BARN



WHERE MY TRUCK GOT STUCK



ST HELENA CREEK - MIDDLETOWN



GRANGE ROAD – COYOTE VALLEY



PRO SHOP AND HARDESTER'S - HARTMANN ROAD



LUCHETTI RANCH WHERE BOB LIVES



BOB'S DRIVEWAY

THANKS FOR LOOKING!