

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EDITION



March 23, 1982

update 82

Polynesian Cultural Center

Flood Fails To Dampen Sabbath Spirit In Laie



This living room on Loala Street shows the damage done in many homes by Sunday's flash flood. Dirt on the wall indicates that the water has dropped from its original height.

Priesthood leaders quickly joined forces with the Civil Defense representative and Laie Community Association members as well as Zions Securities and BYU-Hawaii administrators to organize relief and security forces for the community.

Bishop Doug Curran, agent bishop for the Stake Center, coordinated the food relief program, while the Laie Stake High Council checked on

homes within the ward areas, working through the bishops.

According to the Kahuku Fire Chief, both the Laie stream and the main Kahuku stream flooded yesterday, and drivers found Kahuku almost impassable at the height of the flash flood there.

Zions Securities works with the Army Corps of Engineers, which, as an emergency group, take over flood control in the event of tidal waves or

flash floods. Brother Stone observed that "The ground in Laie can be dry after a heavy storm in the mountains which will send down a wave of water towards Laie about thirty minutes later." After many weeks of almost continual rain, the ground in Laie was already saturated by the time this mountain run-off hit Sunday, making it almost impossible for the flood waters to subside for several hours.

NEWS

Relief Society Quick To Help



Hundreds of meals were prepared and served throughout the day as the Relief Society women of the community worked in shifts to meet the needs of families.

Relief Society response to Sunday's crisis was swift. Within the hour of hearing the news, the Laie Stake Relief Society Board had mobilized, setting up a kitchen in the Stake Center which served hot meals continuously all day.

The women reported that families untouched by the water delivered food to the center unsolicited, and the kitchen handled a variety of menus throughout the day as the donated

food arrived. "Even non-members from as far away as Hauula brought in food to help."

PCC employees Simi Niumatalolo and Max Purcell supervised the preparation of 500 meals in the Center kitchen for delivery to the Stake Center Sunday night, and the Relief Society estimated that they served over 700 meals between 5:00 and 7:00 pm.

Families were grateful for cold

drinks throughout the day, as the flood waters were contaminated by seepage from Laie's cess-pool system, and the Health Department advised people not to drink water. Most residents in the badly affected areas switched off the electricity in their homes as the water rose above electric outlets and appliances such as t.v. sets, refrigerators, and freezers. The hot meals were thankfully received after a full day of trying to save possessions in the flooded homes.

The Choir Practice That Wasn't!

The members of the combined choirs of the Laie First, Fourth, Sixth and Kahuku wards were practicing when they became aware of the flood

Lifting their white dresses above their knees, the women started wading home. Soon the murky water was above their waists. Mothers and grandmothers clung to younger choir members as the cold current swirled

them to higher ground.

The men, unable to enter their cars parked in the chapel lot, rolled up their Sunday pants and assisted the groups of youths who were already working with families in the homes that front the temple on Nani-Loa Loop. The spirit of neighborly love began as soon as the flood began!

Call on your Department of Health representative to answer your questions on special problems.

Ph: 548.3225

NEWS

Members "Pull Ox From Mire" On Flooded Sabbath

Acts of neighborliness abounded in Laie Sunday as people rallied to help each other. Many students from the campus wards waded through the water to help families carry heavy furniture to higher places. As the water began receding some six hours after hitting the community, the streets were piled with rolls of wet carpeting, and appliances and furniture joined the automobiles stranded in yards.

The mood among those affected became one of acceptance and most people faced the event with equanimity. Gladys Pualoa observed wryly that a new flood insurance policy she had just taken out would not take effect until Monday, March 22! Others commented that they had "always wanted a swimming pool in the yard."

Children quickly got over the initial shock and climbed into boats and onto surfboards to help float goods to higher ground, while neighbors and other families gathered up small children to reassure them and care for them while their parents began the long process of cleaning up.

People used their individual skills to help others. President Sione Niu of the BYU Stake stalled his car, then picked up his box of tools and waded through water to work on other cars that were stalled throughout the town.

Brother To'omalatai, who drives heavy machinery for BYU, arrived at the Andersen home on Wahinepee Street with a front end loader that could lift their belongings to the second story of their house. Early that day, he had walked away from his home which was one of the lowest lying in the town and had some 4 feet 8 inches of water inside.

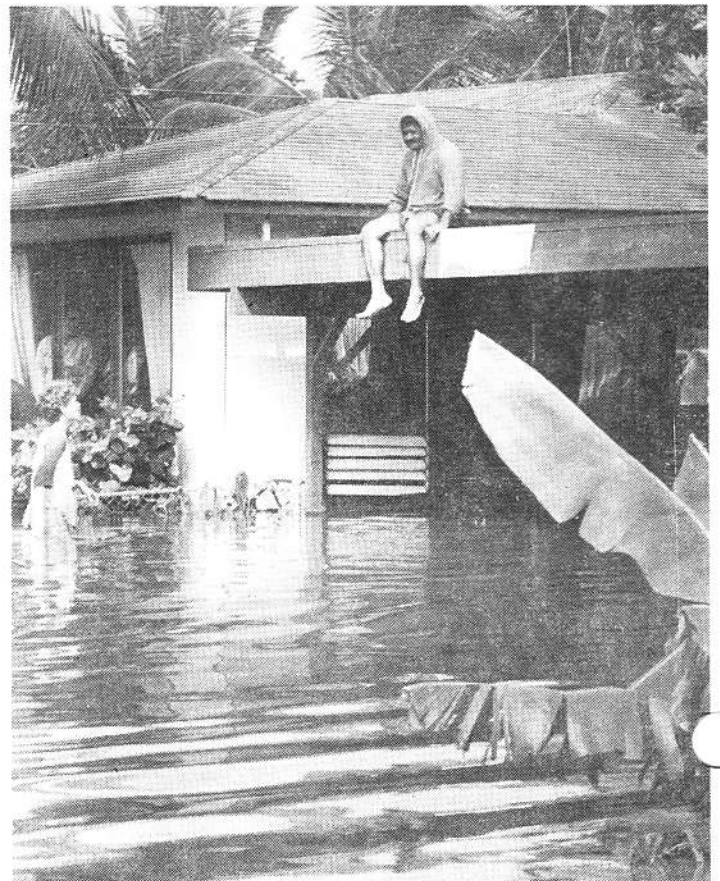
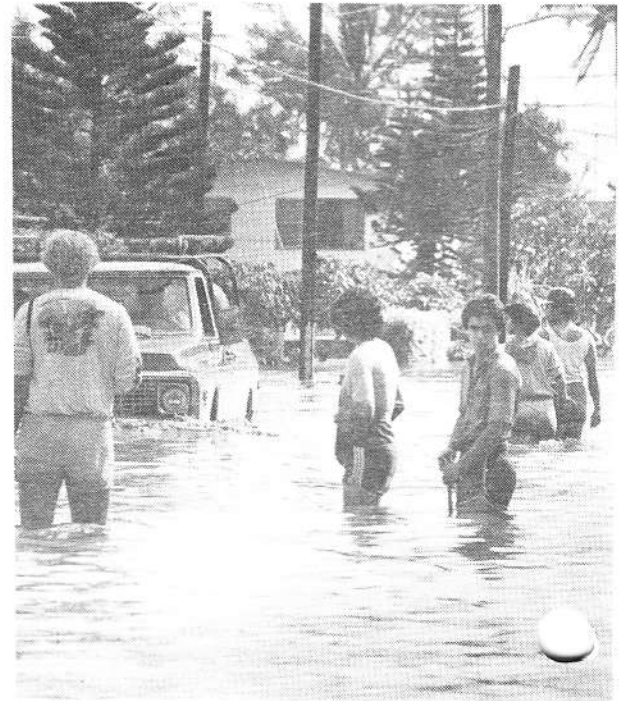


Tuavale Solipo and Siasoi Toomalatai, took the initiative and drove BYU heavy equipment to Laie stream where they worked many hours clearing the water of debris and growth.

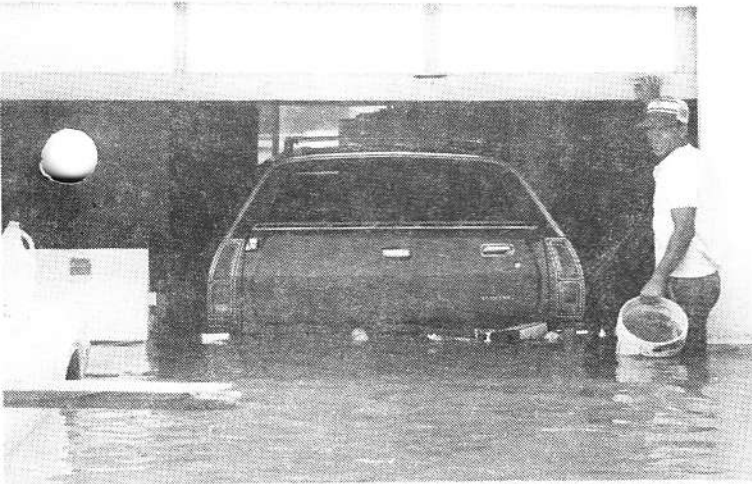
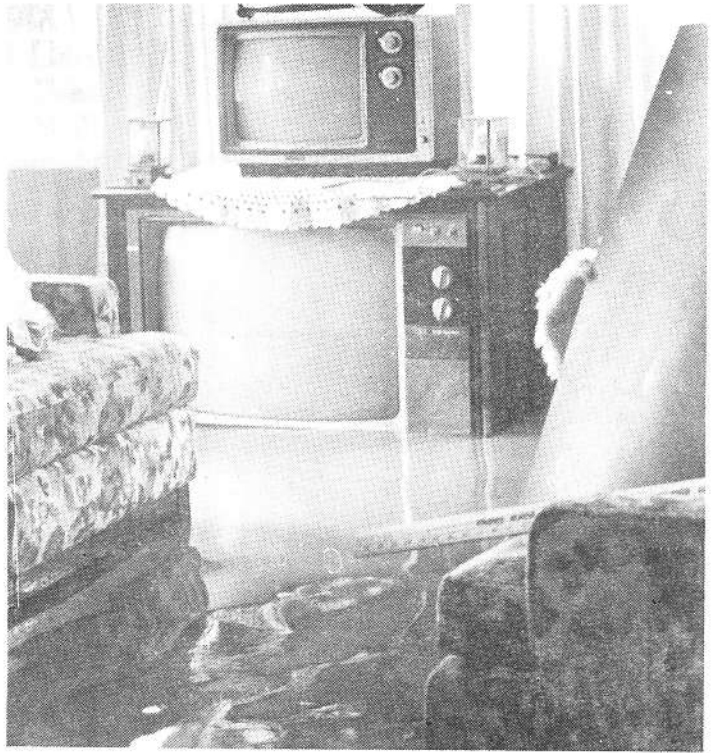


BYU students help the Munson family, of Naniloa Loop, to move heavy furniture when the water began receding.

Most Residents Maintained



Good Humor, Despite Losses.



Residents Display Community Concern For Each Other



Men worked for several hours digging out huge growths of water lilies in Laie stream - picture shows water flowing after clumps of the plant were broken up.



Siaosi To'omalatai dumps debris from the ditch digger.

Around 6:45 am Eagle Scout Robert Clark awoke to alert his family of the stream lapping their front doorstep. Grabbing a length of rope, a shovel, and a hoe, he and his father Mark sloshed through the rising water to Laiewai bridge where they met neighbors Dean Andersen, Andy Macatiag, Alan Uyehara, and Kenway Kuai.

The stream was blocked by planks of wood, waterlilies, coconut leaves and other debris. Mark Clark tied one end of the rope around his waist and the others lowered him over the side of the bridge where he began clearing the debris until Siaosi To'omalatai arrived with the BYU front end loader and worked at clearing the stream.

The waterlilies on the surface tipped him off to the seriousness of the situation. It was the mass of waterlilies which alerted Bob Kahawai too. He was looking out of his window when he saw a wave of waterlilies moving towards his house. He watched the water swirl past towards the new chapel.

Sam Choy was serving customers at the Laie Cash and Carry when he saw the initial foot high wave of water flow across Flora Soren's yard and through the open door into his store. He watched the water reach the top of his front steps in about 15 minutes. His store basement filled up, destroying the inventory and the freezers in the store room floated.

At 7:11 am the Kahuku Fire Department received the first call informing them of the flash flood. Thelma Chang, one of the early callers phoned right after the water, coming in a waist-high wave, swept around and past her house.

Members Grateful No Lives Lost

Percy TeHira awoke to see Laie Park shining dark and ominous in the pre-dawn. He dressed and waded over to Bob Lin Kee's to help the family and noted that the water rose 8 to 10 inches in fifteen minutes

Larry Au had just picked up his Sunday paper from his mailbox when the water began flowing down the street like a river. He had no time to move either his cars or belongings, and his family watched while the water flooded the house. Oil and gas from the cars scummed the water.

Across the street, Helen Goo bustled her small children together, and handed each an "emergency suitcase" which contained a change of clothes and food. She had time to pile her sewing notions high before the family was evacuated by rowboat. Her husband waded the two blocks from the temple through waist-high water to get home, but there was nothing they could do to save many of their possessions.

Hanaloa Nihipali looked out of her window to check the weather before leaving home for an early-morning choir practice. She saw an orange chair and a five-foot log float by. As brown water began flowing into her house she knew the situation was serious. She had nine people in her home, including two visitors from Colorado, and was concerned for their safety.

Dorothy Suafilo was in the Third Ward sacrament meeting when the bishop stood to announce the emergency and close the meeting. She drove home, changed, picked up bread and tuna fish and hurried back to the Stake Center where she began immediately to make sandwiches. She was joined by other women and many of the stake's youth. The group stayed most of the day preparing food for stranded families.



Choir members' cars stranded in chapel parking lot.



Residents wade down Olioli Street.

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS FOR FLOODED AREAS

The Department of Health does not recommend the reoccupation of homes or other buildings until toilet facilities are operating properly

The following precautions should be taken by those returning to homes that have been flooded:

Flooded Rooms:

After flooded rooms are drained or pumped out, they should be washed down with clean water, brushed and scrubbed. Then a disinfecting solution should be applied with a brush, broom, rag, or pressure sprayer. The following solutions are suggested from materials usually available:

Creosol: Four tablespoons or 2 ounces of lysol or creosol per gallon of water.

Chlorox: Dissolve one ounce to each gallon of water used for spraying or brushing.

Chloride of lime: One pound of fresh chloride of lime in 6 to 10 gallons of water.

(Chlorox or Chloride of lime is a strong bleach. Do not use on materials which will be damaged or bleached out.)

Flooded Furniture:

Curtains a) Boil all that can be boiled without injury to the fabric.
 b) Dry thoroughly in open air and sunshine.
 c) Press with hot iron or dry clean.

Rugs a) Flush off with clear water while still on floor.
 b) Dry thoroughly in the sunshine.
 c) Use a mild soap and lukewarm water for shampoo - then rinse and dry.

Furniture a) Wash with soap and water all surfaces that can be reached and will not be harmed, such as wood, metal, leather, cane and composition materials.
 b) Upholstered materials. Wash surfaces thoroughly, preferably in open air and sunshine.

Discard anything that cannot be cleaned and dried, such as badly soaked mattresses and upholstered materials.

Flooded Foodstuffs:

No foodstuffs subjected to contamination from sewage or flood waters should be used, unless such foodstuffs have been stored in water-tight containers, in which case the outside should be thoroughly washed and then sterilized with a disinfectant, or by plunging in continuous boiling water for 2 to 3 minutes and then cooled quickly.

It is best to "play safe" and discard any questionable foodstuffs, including bottled goods with metal crowns.

Personal Precautions:

After handling polluted materials, the following precautions should be taken to guard against infection of yourself and family:

a) Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and hot water before touching any part of your body or that of members of your family, particularly mouth, eyes, nose, etc.

b) Do not touch or handle food before your hands have been thoroughly washed with soap and hot water.

c) Report immediately to your doctor or local health officer any diarrhea, stomach upset or sudden illness, or infection on yourself or family.

Indelible snapshot memories remain with us as we review the events of this most unusual Sunday, among them:

Amoe Myer's car in water to the roof.

Frank Kamae hosing down the new chapel and sweeping the patio there while his own house across the street remained under water.

Aaron Tufaga wading waist-high keeping his Sunday paper dry under his arm.

George Hubbell's rental tilted on its foundations.

Scott Pukahi paddling through the water on his surfboard.

Someone in a kayak paddling past the temple.

Linda Smith stuffing sleeping bags under the doors of her house to keep the water out - only to realize it wasn't going to work and that the family would need them that night.

Lettie Jackson questioning why their neighbor Elcock's bag of garbage had deposited itself on their lawn.

Two-tone laundry hanging on clotheslines with the lower half of everything a chocolate brown color.

Simon Tan, Patrick Wong, and Ross Rasmussen cleaning out their former bishop's home.

Stake President Bill Cravens wading through the water in his church suit pants.

This issue of UPDATE is a community service of the Polynesian Cultural Center. Thanks go to Rubina Forester who assisted with reporting events, and the Center Graphics staff who worked to meet deadlines.

The Editor

Photos by Vernice Pere