



The **EXTRA** CANYON WREN

WITH ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO CHIRP!

Jim Sleeper, Editor

Vol. IV

November 26, 1965

Extra

18" RAINFALL GUTS CYNS. ROAD OUT; CABINS O.K.

Over 18" of rain in twelve days caused the worst flood in the Trabuco-Holy Jim area since 1938. Miraculously no cabins were seriously damaged, though all roads were blocked by mud slides and washouts.

Both creeks roared over their banks and numerous side hill tributaries cut through yards and around foundations. Wings of several check dams were swept out. The runoff was so fast that water skirted the ends of cement aprons and dams alike, causing bank cave-ins and gulches.

The creeks crested at 9 p.m., Monday, November 22.

Water volume in Holy Jim was 20 feet across by four feet high—measured above check dam level.

Flow dropped an inch an hour after 9 p.m. as trees, brush and boulders in the stream bed were cleared by the raging waters. Now at least six hours rain fell at the rate of an inch an hour.

As it had rained every day since Nov. 13, except the 19th and 20th, the ground was too saturated to absorb this latest deluge.

Roads were badly gouged and littered with logs and rocks.

Foot bridges were swept out at Shrewsbury's (HJ) and Jones' (UT). Fears were held that the Holy Jim residences of Robert Haas and James Fulgham would be damaged as a culvert behind the Haas place became plugged.

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STORM FIGURES

Rainfall readings varied widely throughout the canyons as wind gusts up to 45 mph lashed the storm. Curiously, during the peak fall (Nov. 22), the temperature remained an even 60°, night and day. Since then (Nov. 26 at 4 a.m.) it dropped to 32°.

Nov. 13-17	(Sleeper - HJ)	4.82
" "	(Presley - UT)	5.80
" "	(Smith - HJ)	5.25
Nov. 18	(Sleeper - HJ)	.64
Nov. 21-23	(Sleeper - HJ)	8.61
" "	(Smith - HJ)	10.50
Nov. 24	(Sleeper - HJ)	.98
Nov. 25	(Sleeper - HJ)	.60

The gauge maintained in Holy Jim by John Smith is probably the most accurate as it is less obstructed by foliage. Smith's total for the Nov. 13-25 period is 15.25". Sleeper's total was 15.65".

DUNE-BUGGY DELIVERY

I expected to back-pack this brief issue out of the canyon to the P.O. at the Oaks. Since preparing the copy, however, several sand buggies have made it in and out—no without mishap. We thank Bart Jones for making the trip once more to bring you this Wren extra. Regular issue and full details coming up next month. — Jim

WREN SURVEYS CABIN DAMAGE

Knowing owners would be anxious as to the fate of their cabins, the Wren staff surveyed both canyons, Tuesday afternoon, following the flood, to ascertain damage. -- Ed.

GENERAL ESTIMATE

No serious cabin damage resulted from the flood, though this was an "outside" inspection. Expect leaks as this was a wind-blown rain. There was considerable yard erosion. All check dams were filled with rock and gravel to the spillway.

HOLY JIM CANYON

KRANCUS (1) O.K.
 HENDERSON-BURKE (2) O.K.
 JONAS (3) O.K. Dumped your rain gauge (full at 6") at 12:30 p.m., Nov. 23.
 THIBODEAU (4) O.K.
 SMITH (5) O.K.
 LUSTER (6) O.K.
 ROBERTS (7) Screen porch soaked; parking lot littered, limbs, logs, etc. Badly eroded around eucalyptus. Creek came down straight here. Rocks down from bank. House O.K.
 PEYTON (8) Cut out driveway some. Litter below. House O.K. Logs washed in road.
 STEVENS (9) Some slough off behind house, slight cuts in front of house on bank; a 1" gulchet to side of road into Wilkes'. Switchback rough.
 COPLIN (10) O.K. Check your butane for leak.
 EHRBAR (11) Driveway will need reworking some. Creek split above you; porch probably soaked (wind from NW); front windows were blown open.
 WILKES (12) Better check "open" backside; rocks cracked spare windows; water came over whole check dam, cut out lower side tho it's holding all right.
 BOLITS (13) Heavy debris over check dam which diverted down road. Crossing here badly cut out. Small creek out of old mine shaft behind you. Better divert before next one comes.

(Continued next column)

KOIMATYCKI (14) Big drainage, debris below house. Mostly silt. Pump slab eroded. House O.K.
 WOLFFLEY (15) House O.K. Gulch well channeled behind house to W; no damage here, tho one streamlet down steps on same side.
 MACKINTOSH (16) House O.K. Well up to 3' of top; muddy but no surface water in.
 FULGHUM (17) House O.K. Your spark arrester in basement (found down the road). Creek ran both sides of hse. Front yard eroded. Outbldg. (rlastic) over; road below you nearly impassible.
 HASS (18) Hse. O.K. tho gulch diverted; channeled as best I could; Army truck is probably stuck, Plym. O.K. West side rough; stream through basement and below.
 SIZER (20) O.K.
 BAGLEY (22) Trench thru cactus garden. Shed over turned. Stream missed big water tank.
 TEASLEY (25) 4' cut in lower bank; draft line flipped out. Slough behind house.
 SLEEPER (23) Nearly lost creek wall, undercut; water over ramp house wall. Draft out. Home for Xmas, Mother!
 HORNUTH (26) O.K.
 PETERSON (27) O.K.
 CLEMMER-LINK (28) Slight mud behind hse. John and John-John both O.K. Draft buried.
 KRESSIG (29) Hillside slough; creek crossing will need considerable work to get thru.
 SMITH (30) Draft flipped out. Much debris below retaining wall--tho held. Log from above your place found 2½ miles down Trabuco Creek. Washed out few steps to tank.
 WENDEL (32) Water cut into sand pile some; your elec. line caught debris in creek; I dislodged and tied up to porch. Drive will probably need fill.
 SHREWSBURY (33) Bridge out; now down creek 150' in two pieces. Bad alder leaning over porch. Hard to cross creek; better bring planks when come up. House seems O.K.

Appropriate Quotations

After the rain cometh the fairth weather.

--Aesop

Nature, like man, sometimes weeps for gladness.

--Disraeli

CABIN DAMAGE

(Continued from page 3)

TRABUCO CANYON (cont.)

McVAY (54) Yard cut up near army truck by run off. Road in front very rough. Tree on hillside still holding. Bathroom window open. Cut between your place and Presley's. House O.K. Back porch damp. Garage O.K. (P.S.: Gave Burt War Buggy keys.)

MENDIGACHA (62) O.K. but will check back side again.

18" RAINFALL

(Continued from p. 1)

(Note: This is the story you couldn't find on page 3. We've been all wet for a week now! Sorry.)

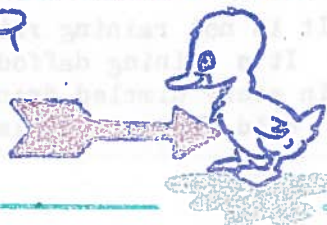
and the diverted stream rushed through both yards. A four foot deep by four foot wide washout nearly spanning the Holy Jim road resulted.

Bad slides blocked Trabuco road above the Forks and above the high road between the last group of cabins. Rock slides temporarily blocked the high cuts below the Tin Mine. While all crossings are rough, the first within the Forest Boundary required heavy equipment before semi-normal auto passage was possible. The County had a dozer at the Guard Station which had been cleaning out the check dams the week before. The dozer was used here only.

Slides below the first crossing within the boundary and a four foot high mud ooze just outside the boundary remain uncleared. Entrance to the canyons must be made 500' south of the regular road just in from the Rose Canyon turnoff.

The Holy Jim Fish Road and the Upper Trabuco Truck Trail are impassible.

ANOTHER CANYON EXTRA



MSC. NOTES

The first vehicle in was Burt Jones' sand buggy with Wayne and Ed Siebler, Jr. Arrived minus brakes and one headlight. Reported worst spots were mud slide above beehives, slides above narrows and first crossing within forest. Nearly dropped out of sight trying to get across to the Tin Mine.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING . . .

Even in the midst of a flood, a Thanksgiving turkey was enjoyed by stranded canyonites John Smith, John Reynolds, Dane Balmer, Jim and Nola Sleeper. Prepared by Trudy Mathews at the Burt Jones place, the guests also included Bob Hoag. Delivery was by sand-buggy.

As no grading has yet been done on the road, it is not advisable for passenger cars to attempt the trip unprovided. It is smart to travel in pairs (of cars, that is). Jacks, tow ropes, shovels and ignition spray are recommended.

ROAD CONDITION REPORT . . .

Road conditions will be made known by the California Division of Forestry at Orange. The County, not the Forest Service, works the road. The office mentioned should be contacted before making the trip if in doubt. Grading has been promised sometime this next week.

If you come, restock your supplies. The traditional rainy months (Jan. and March) are still ahead. Items to remember: canned and dry goods, white gas and kerosene, butane, newspapers (for soaking up floors and starting wet wood), roofing compound. Beat the campers; bring your chain saw---plenty of trees down.

THIS ISSUE . . .

---was rendered (that's a pun, son) with love because we believe people are interested in their property and their canyons. Help support this and future Wrens by joining the Association. We'll keep you posted.

---JDS

CABIN DAMAGE

(Continued from page 2)

LOWER TRABUCO CANYON

Note: Your crossing rough; took out one side of check dam or apron (upper side). Sycamore here ready to go over. Passable Bell Ridge Fire Break Spur No. 2 (draw across from Essalun's) running very hard.

TIN WINE - Crossing will need much work; one check dam washed out. Flat area above looks like a lake.
GUARD STATION - Several rock wall cave-ins. Fern Spring has cut out main road badly here. Dozer O.K. Tanks O.K.
FIRE HOUSE - O.K. Only leaks were under mud-sills; none in roof.

LINDSAY (1) O.K.
OLSON (2) O.K.
ABBOTT (3) O.K.
STALEY (5) Debris in back yard. Hse. O.K.
ESSELUN (6) House O.K. Did you have a draft line in creek? Couldn't find.

UPPER TRABUCO CANYON

DONAHUE (8) Some slough; crossing out.
FLOOD (9) O.K.
MAKELY (10) O.K. No water under your bridge; all diverted to main stream.
TRACY (11) O.K.
CARNAHAN (12) O.K. Crossing impassible at time; logs, boulders to move. Draft pipe out of culvert (with green plastic).
BALL (13) O.K. what could wee. Though suspect some bank erosion.
RICHARDSON (14) O.K.

Note: Campground spur road rough but O.K. Much erosion and slide between CG and below helicopter road.

SIEBLER (15) Pipe from pump to tank cut out; drained tank. Pipe on south side now.
HOAG (16) O.K.

(Continued next column)

JACOBI (20) House O.K. Stream will be rough crossing; alder across looks like might be ready to drop. Stream split just above you, but your bank not damaged much.

Historical note: in 1938 cabins 17, 18, 19, and 21 in this area went out.

NORDSIECK (22) No water ran down your little creek, it all went down the road. The culvert at Alder Spring plugged up. House O.K. Creek now unplugged. Road in front and above is rough and mushy.

Historical note: in 1938 cabins 24, 25, 27 and 28 washed out in this area.

JONES (26) Bridge overturned, caused diversion into bank, cut out 2' swath length of front yard. Bridge 150' down creek. House O.K. Draft line buried or lost. P.S. your bathtub is full!

BARAN (29) O.K. but rough road in front.
AUSTIN (30) House O.K. but your retaining wall held water on wrong side (in yard) as water poured from gulch behind Evans'. Put in drains. Pump case cockeyed.
OBBER (31) Bad runoff from road around cabin to creek. Creek came over your back wall, though house O.K.
BONDE (32) O.K.

PRESLEY (35) Dumped your rain gauge at 2 p.m. Nov. 23 at 6" full. Yard eroded on west side by runoff from gulch. Ck. phone. Arrester shot; cent. plant near out.
EVANS (36) Bad gulch on west side from runoff from draw; cut out road below. House O.K.
SPONSELLER (37) O.K.

Note: Between this group of cabins and those at end of road there is another bad slide on pass. Difficult to clear yet.

WHITE (39) O.K.
DRAPER, KNAAK, HUBBARD (40) O.K.
WASCOM (41) O.K.
HARVEY (45) Believe all O.K. Tho better check creek retaining wall.

(Continued next column)

It is not raining rain to me,
 It's raining daffodils;
 In every dimpled drop I see
 Wild flowers on distant hills.