

# THE FLOODS ARE BACK?

Was this a fluke, or was it an indication of things to come? After a relatively calm period the last few years (no 100-year floods) this one has destroyed the very basis on which Millions of dollars have been spent in flood-proofing efforts.

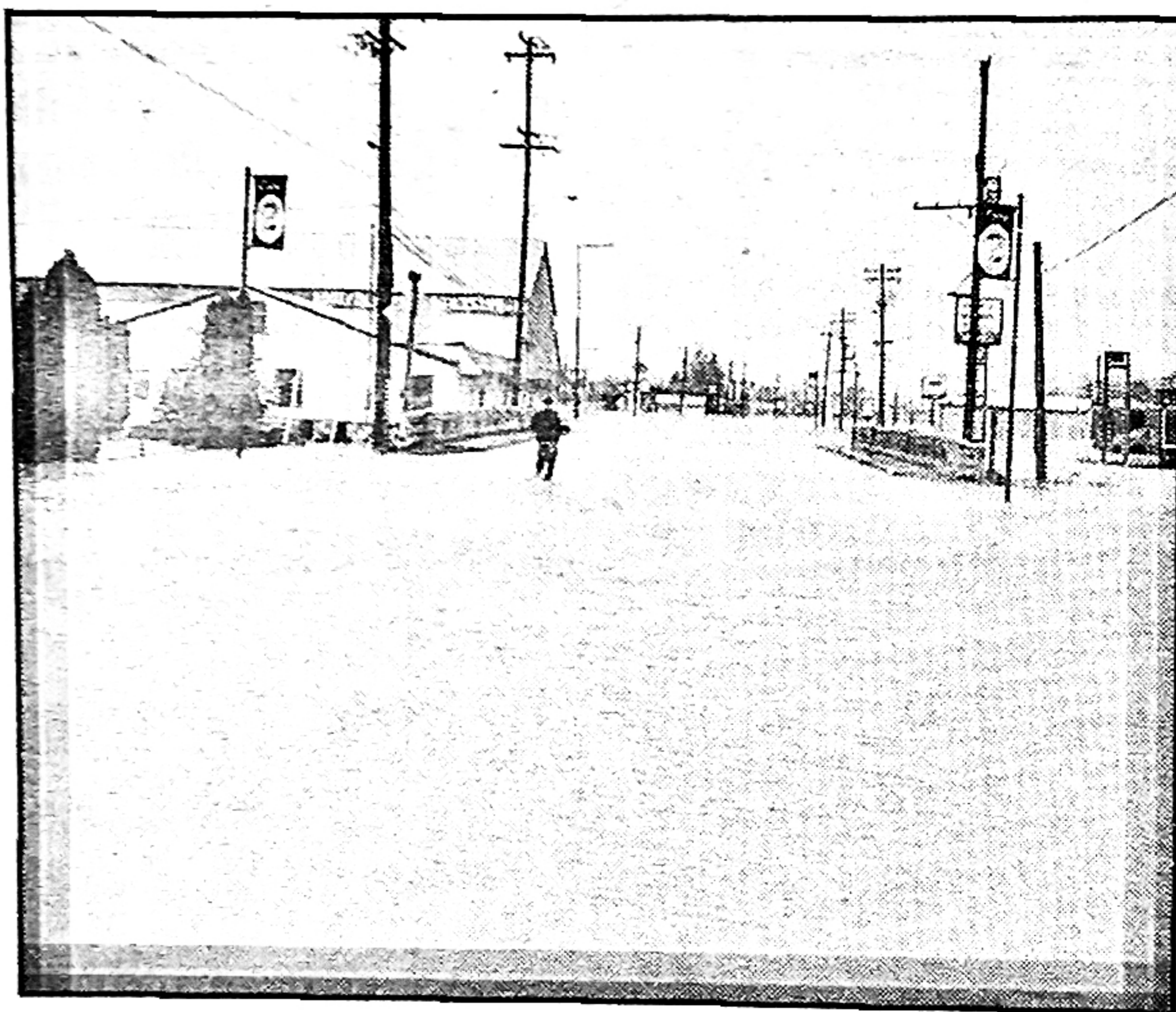
Many Dairy, Business and homeowners have invested life savings in flood prevention measures, based on FEMA estimates of 100 year and 500 year flood levels. This flood topped the 500 year level by at least twelve inches! Tillamook County suffered over \$55 Million in damages in 1996. After ten years of intensive mitigation efforts, 2006 could top that.

While FEMA, is providing faulty information, other agencies are blocking local efforts to improve both flooding and habitats. The governor has said that Wilson River flooding is just routine. After six frustrating years of trying to restore the lower Kilchis River, the Army Corps of Engineers has denied the permit. According to the

Corps representative a six year delay represents a system "that is working the way it is supposed to."

We have spent many thousands of hours and Millions of dollars since the 1996 flood, only to find that much of the effort has been wasted. So what is much of Tillamook County supposed to do???

Do we vacate all flooded properties as



many bureaucrats recommend? Do we continue to try to work through a broken permit system? Do we continue to suffer losses and try to survive? Do we keep filing flood claims with the National Flood Insurance Program, or, do we wait until

people are killed and hope that gets some attention.

**The only forum dedicated solely to these problems is the TBHEID. Bring examples of your damage and suggestions of how we should proceed to our Public Meeting tonight at 6:00 pm at the Shilo Wilson River room. Everyone is welcome.**

*Doug Rosenberg, President TBHEID*