



Photo by Roger Werth

A few people on the Old Highway 99 bridge watch the steaming Toutle River, heated by erupting Mount St. Helens, pass under them on its way to the Cowlitz River

Warm Toutle and Cowlitz killing fish

By Lew Pumphrey
The Daily News

Adult spring chinook in the Cowlitz and Toutle rivers are "dying in hair-pulling numbers," according to the Washington Department of Fisheries. The toll of dead fish from the eruption of Mount St. Helens has reached 10 million for sure, with a likelihood of twice that many anadromous fish eventually dying because of the disrupted ecology of the rivers.

Floor said that if the Toutle returns to its original size and temperature, some provisions can be made to save the fish that return this summer and fall. Traps can be set up at the mouth, and the fish taken to certain other hatcheries. But Columbia River fish can't be moved out of the Columbia River system. And even at other Columbia-system hatcheries, river conditions might kill the unacclimated salmon.

Floor said many of the salmon, upon returning to the non-existent hatchery, will seek out a new place to spawn. The biologists are hoping there will be some place to spawn.

Of six other hatcheries in the volcano area, five have been evacuated, although there has been no structural damage, said Floor. One man stayed at the Lewis River hatchery upstream from Woodland to monitor water conditions and operate fish feeders. The others were running "automatically" and on emergency generators.

Neighbors pitch in at Green Acres

By Andre Staszewski
The Daily News

CASTLE ROCK — Like many others, the Cripes underestimated Mount St. Helens. But when the mud put in motion by the mountain finally stopped leaning against their home Monday morning, they became shocked believers. The force had pushed their home 30 feet off its foundation in Castle Rock's Green Acres subdivision.

In a way, the Cripes were fortunate. Although their home was destroyed, the Cripes, their two children and their furniture and other belongings were safe.

"I love this house," Mrs. Cripe, 35, said as she packed in her daughter's bedroom. It was a blow when we came out here this morning.

Neighbors pitched in to help. They watched the houses of 10 of our neighbors go. It was awful.

Toutle's stoutest toughing it out

By Leo Siegel
The Daily News

TOUTLE — "It's pretty sad," said Orin Groth as he stared glumly at the muddy remains of his home.

Monday to hear the mud flow "snappin', grindin' and crunchin'" trees in its path.

"The souvenir business is down to nothing," said Bonnie Peterson, the grocery clerk. "We got quite a souvenir yesterday," she added, pointing east to a massive mud flow that wiped out the main Spirit Lake Highway bridge across the Toutle River.

"We lost all our furniture, our clothes, the gun collection, about 40 saws, compressors and so on. We watched the houses of 10 of our neighbors go. It was awful."



Photo by Roger Werth

Bob Kaseweter and Bev Wetherald were happy on Saturday as they sat on Kaseweter's porch watching Mount St. Helens

Geologists missing Scientists likely died in mountain home

By Rick Selfert
The Daily News

It was a geologist's dream. Bob Kaseweter of Portland proudly told visitors last Saturday that he had an active volcano in his front yard at Spirit Lake.

Property owners bent on packing up their belongings were allowed in Saturday afternoon for what turned out to be the last visit to Spirit Lake as we know it. The penis went along.

"Now they say they'll float up to visit when the flood comes."



David Johnston on March 27
The mountain worried him then

Young USGS volcanologist missing, feared dead

By Donna duBeth
The Daily News

U.S. Geological Survey volcanologist David Johnston is missing and feared dead on a ridge six miles from Mount St. Helens.

Johnston's camp is under four feet of ash, said Frear, with no sign of life.

Texan determined to return to mountain

By Leo Siegel
The Daily News

TOUTLE — Come mud or high water, Michael West said Monday he was heading for Mount St. Helens.

But West is confident of his ability to survive, contending most of the persons who were injured or killed by mud flows "didn't know what they were doing."

West says they tried Dergan for shock and tried to calm Reitan until Weyerhaeuser helicopters rescued them. St. John's Hospital officials said Ms. Dergan received treatment for a fractured arm and Reitan was treated for multiple bruises and abrasions. Both were later released.

Here's how, where to check rumors

By Bob Martinson
The Daily News

A flood of rumors accompanied the high waters that roared down the Toutle and Cowlitz rivers.

County crews start clearing, cleaning

County crews started clearing roads of mud Monday, but found the work difficult.

Roads open, close

Interstate Highway 5 was open for legal loads today, but at least 25 other roads around the state are closed in the aftermath of flooding caused by the Mount St. Helens eruption.

Firefighters ready attack into forest

By AP and The Daily News

Firefighters were cautiously preparing today to attack at least 80 forest fires reported in the wake of Mount St. Helens' eruption.