Josh Smith

Mrs. Foltz

Pennsylvania History-5

This tragic disaster took place on March 20, 1936.

The flood took place right in downtown Pittsburgh and any close surrounding areas.

This flood didn’t affect one person alone, but the entire city of Pittsburgh.

The flood was mainly caused due to ice and rain build up. The Ohio River, the Monongahela River, and the Allegheny River had been covered by this snow, ice, and rain. These ice covered rivers started to melt. Whenever the ice and snow finally started to melt, the rivers got higher and higher to about 46 feet, the highest ever recorded at the time. The river kept rising and rising starting to cover The Point, then Point Park, and soon, downtown Pittsburgh was under a good 15 feet of water.

In downtown Pittsburgh alone, more than 40 people drowned. When the brown waters started receding, more than 60 were dead, 500 hurt, and 135,000 people homeless. Flood damage was $150 million to $200 million alone. A plaque on the old Horne’s building’s on the Penn Ave. corner shows how high the water rose. While the plaques could be there for many more years to come, more and more people that have lived through this tragedy are dying, and their stories begin to fade away.

The Pittsburgh flood of 1936 will live on because nothing like that was ever thought of as a threat before. The flood waters practically destroyed the city. Many were without homes, and innocent loved ones drowned in the passing flood waters. More than fifteen feet of river water sat throughout downtown Pittsburgh, although the water may have left, the memories and stories will live on forever.



 tThe Point, downtown Pittsburgh-Flood waters of 15 feet

The Point in downtown Pittsburgh-March 20

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-http://www.pppservices.net/PPPF/pittsburgh\_flood\_article.htm

-Pittsburgh Flood Article

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