

(Transcribed by AI from an audio recording)

So this is a story about when in 1983, I believe, is the year that it happened. So in 1983, we had a very wet spring, and there had been a very wet winter. So there was lots of snow in the mountains in Utah and Salt Lake.

And there was a lot of rain in the spring. So during the winter, it snowed a lot, and there's a good snowpack. And then it warmed up really rapidly.

And all of the snow in the mountains melted really quick within a couple of weeks. Do you know what happens when all the snow melts in a really short period of time? A flood. A flood, a big flood.

And there was so much water coming out of the mountains and Salt Lake down into the valley that it started to flood this whole city. And there was certain streets that instead of being roads that you could drive on, they became rivers. They're like, there's so much water, we can't control this.

So they turned fourth east into, no, fourth south into a river. And there was people that were being silly, and they were fishing in this river, which was a torrent. And it was kind of silly and not really that they were going to catch fish.

But they built temporary overpasses. So if you were driving through town, and you wanted to get to the other side of fourth east, or fourth south, you had to drive over this little bridge. How do you make those? I don't know how they made those, but I remember.

I don't remember that part. What? I don't remember. I do.

I remember driving over this weird thing, and there was this big old sandbag. So they made all these sandbags. And this is when I was a Cub Scout age person.

And made all these sandbags. And then built these rivers on the street with sandbags. And there's waters just torrents, like big crazy rivers, like rapid rivers, going down roads.

And so there's all this water just pouring out of the hills, out of the mountains. And there's mud everywhere. And there's flooding everywhere, all throughout the city.

And it just so happens that on ninth east, there is a normal, where grandma's house is, a few doors down from grandma's old house there on ninth east, there's an underground river. And it's a big old... Where is that? It's underneath... It was the Cahoons house when I was a kid. But it was the kid that... Yeah.

It's under their driveway. And it's a big old rectangular culvert that runs underneath their driveway. And it runs from up in the hills somewhere, up on the avenues.

It gets into a pipe and it stays under that pipe. Well, that pipe was so full of water, there's a drain in ninth east that was bubbling up. And it was just flying out of the ground from that river.

Yeah. There's a river underneath there. I've never seen that come out of the river.

Oh, and the lawn of that place is part of the one, the house on the north. And so, but that point is a low spot. And you don't really realize it, but along ninth east and along Lincoln street, which is the little back street behind ninth east, there's a low spot right there.

And so the water's coming down so much that Lincoln street was full of water. And it was like a lake. And the houses are banked up on the west side of the street and on the east side of the street.

And it was this pond. And so the whole street, you couldn't drive down Lincoln street because it was a lake. And then they were draining it off on the top surface of that driveway, because it's the low point.

And they cut a channel through somebody's yard and then down that driveway. And they sandbagged the alley. And so the alley had this little sandbag thingy.

But those people that lived on that street couldn't park on the street. And they had to walk through people's yards and go weird ways to get to their houses. And they had sandbags to keep water from going to their houses.

There are some of the houses that were close by that low spot that had sandbags, at least two sandbags high. So that's a little wall about as high as this bed. So about a foot tall.

They were made out of sandbags to keep the water from going into their houses. And so they're right along their front doors and everything. And there's all this water pouring through there to drain off this lake.

And so there was this girl that lived in the neighborhood. And she and I were friends. She was a little bit older than me.

And her name was Christy. And she had a younger sister whose name is Shelly. And Christy and Shelly, I remember their names.

That was their, I don't know if their last names were. Where did they live? They lived on Lincoln Street. And so one day after the flood had kind of started to subside, of course, when water's coming down a mountain, what comes with it? Mud.

Mud. Lots of mud. So there was basically a big old pond of mud left because the water was pretty much drained out.

And it was slow enough, the water was still flowing, but it was slow enough that you could get in the water and walk around. So we would put on our swimsuits and we'd play in this water and stuff. So then she and I went up onto the street.

And the mud was about eight or 10 inches deep. So we went through the mud and we decided to have a mud fight. So we were grabbing up scoops of mud and hucking it at each other and covered each other with mud.

It was so much fun. We were gobbling up mud and hucking handfuls of sticky, gloppy mud at each other. And we were both like mud children, just like covered.

Totally, totally covered with mud. And I was, I don't know, how old was I in 1983? Well, you were only seven. Yeah, yeah, that sounds right.

So I was a seven-year-old covered in mud. Like Charlie. Yeah, Charlie's age.

Yeah, so I was Charlie's age. And I was playing in all this mud and hucking mud at this girl. And she had long hair and she was just like caked into her hair.

We were just totally covered. Like you could see our eyes and that was all. We just got on our faces, on our heads, on our backs.

We were soaked in mud. And it was sticky mud. So we were like heavy with mud.

And then I... That's on Lincoln Street. This is on Lincoln Street. So we had this mud fight.

Where was Ben? He didn't want to get dirty either. Yeah, he wasn't... I thought it was fun. So then we went... So then after that, she's like, I can't go home.

My mom will be so mad if I come in the house like this. I'm like, well, you can come on our house and shower off if you want. I guess.

I don't know. And so then I went home and she followed me. And then mom's like, good grief, you're not coming in the house.

And she's not showering here. So, well, how are we supposed to get cleaned up? And so mom... I think mom told us to hose off. So I think we washed off with the garden hose out in the yard or something.

And then she went home not so dirty. And took a shower and stuff. I have two things to add to that.

I think they had a river down State Street. Yeah. And somebody had told me... State Street flooding.

And somebody in the neighborhood or something said that years before that, they had a similar thing. And this big river going down 13th South. Yeah.

Yeah. Well, we had that two... So yeah, it was... 2023, Springfield, New Jersey. But we had sandbags last year.

Oh, yeah. No, we had... It was part of the church callings that go out and put out sandbags. We had the great same thing.

Yep. And so do you remember the... I went to church early and... When mom's basement flooded and we helped with that? I think it was 2017. That was the same kind of a deal.

Was that 2017? I think. Or 2018? Anyway, and it flooded and broke out that glass window and everything. That's a flash flood.

And it's that same kind of thing. I was so much fun. And that was the same kind of thing that happened.

I went across in the water and got flashed. You know the crazy with that one? I was in a bad way and I had cancer. You don't have cancer.

That's nuts. When they were getting home that day... Yeah, we were. Yeah.

And then we went down and we were like, crap. Yeah. So then we stayed in the water.

Grandma, you were fishing in the water. Yeah. Grandma! That was nuts.

The water's in the speakers. We had to get buckets out. Yeah, and we got that pump.

And the crazy thing about that, and this is a really interesting one about that, is down in that basement is grandpa's wellhead. This is 2018 now, right? Yeah, 2018. And so when that basement flooded, the night before that, we had sealed that up.

Because it was open. And if we hadn't, all of that surface water would have went draining down into the well and contaminated that well. Because that water was well above that wellhead.

But we sealed that the night before real well. And that was a darn good thing. Why'd you seal it? Because we had been working on it that day.

And that was part of why we were down there. What were we doing? Did we put a new pump in? Yeah, we put in a new pump. And I brought it down from here.

That's why you were in town. Yeah, to help you put in the pump. And so we got that all done.

And then we had that flash flood that night. It was 7 a.m. or maybe 6 or 7. Yeah, that was, we had to make those in 10 hours. Yeah.

Yeah, here's a picture of it. These are floods that you can see. Yeah, it's nuts.

Where is that underground right now? It's underneath, I have to look at a map. It's like East High School, Salt Lake City, Springfield. I wonder how much water it would have taken.

It's east. My house is north, south of my parents' house. No, is it south? Yeah.

It's not south. July 26, 2017. It's not south.

9 a.m. It's south. Every rain or storm drains along the Baja section. Well, that's what it is.

Overwhelmed the storm drain. That's south? What did you say? Yeah, it is. Boy, it might turn around.

Yeah, it's south by about five houses. There's this common driveway between two houses. I would have liked to have seen that rain coming down the stairs.

I would have liked to have seen that something later. What? Filling up the mounds based on 2018? Yeah. Yeah.

2017. 2017? Yeah, it was 2017. What are you looking at? Did you see down the stairs? Yeah, how do you know there's a river upstairs in the back patio? That must have been pretty amazing to see before it broke that glass.

I know. There's some all the way from the kitchen. But you can see that water line on the cement wall in the patio.

But I can't understand. Explain this to me. It's different than eating your banana.

If there was four feet of water in the patio, because we saw the water line. It must have sat for a few minutes or something before it folded the glass. Yeah.

But then there was a four foot water line all over that whole basement. And then the sump pump kicked in and was trying to keep up until it burned out. Yeah, I guess.

The sump pump must have drained off. It did. And then the pump just died.

Here's the question. Four feet in that sunken patio. How did that be four feet in the whole? The whole thing was filled.

And the pump was pumping it out. It came down. Four feet is when it broke the window.

And then it filled everything else up to four feet. Yeah. Yeah, the patio must have been filled high and far above that.

I think the glass broke it. I think the glass probably broke it two feet. And then everything filled up to four feet throughout the whole basement and everything as the flood continued.

And then the pump kept pumping until it caputed. But did we see a lot of evidence out where the... I want to say that on the outside of the house there was a higher water line than what I thought. Yeah, I don't know.

It seemed like it was the same. But then at some point it settled. Yeah.

And then all the crap got stuck to the wall at four feet. And then when we got there it had gone down. That's how much that pump pumped out.

Yeah, which is probably true. Yes, because when I discovered it, it was like 18 inches or so deep. No, that was more like two feet, yeah.

It was enough water. I went shopping for a pump. Yeah.

So it pumped out a lot. However, did we ever go look over by the raspberries on the side yard to see if it looked like a whole ton of water? I did. I did and there was a big washout.

There was? There should have been. Yeah, there was. But it's crazy that... Well, there's a lot of roots there so it didn't wash out a ton.

But it looked like there had been a lot of water pumping through.