

Excerpt from Black Hills Daily Times  
Deadwood, South Dakota  
June 6, 1890

DELUGED

A Storm of Unparalleled Severity Visits the Entire Hills  
The Experiences of '83 in Part Repeated  
Necessity of Continuous Bulkheading Emphasized

The rain which began falling at 6 a.m. Wednesday, continued without cessation for twenty-four hours. At times the down pout was of unparalleled severity—a veritable deluge—while strong wind prevailed. The effect on all streams was quickly observed, and as all are tributary to Whitewood, the latter soon became a river of vast and alarming because steadily increasing proportions. No apprehension of material damage was entertained, as the channel was open, and natural, vulnerable points, presumably well bulkheaded, with the exception of in the Second ward where bridges were very low and the channel narrow and shallow. At midnight the east approach of the Northwestern bridge was entirely submerged, and the current obstructed and thrown toward the Northwestern company's freight warehouse and the row of dwellings on the flat below. Mayor Star apprised of the situation, ordered Marshal Garr to tear out the bridge. The span was great and timbers heavy making the undertaking no easy one to accomplish, but hard work by a crew of willing laborers finally removed the obstruction and gave the flood free entrance to the narrow channel rear of Fink's flat, the west side of which was protected by a substantial as, as it proved, an effective plank bulkhead. The opposite bank, however, without protection, crumbled beneath the flood until a channel thirty feet in width was afforded. The Fink bridge and several others below, deprived of support, tumbled into the river and were swept away, making it impossible to cross below Wall street...

Elsewhere

The storm was practically continent wide, and although heavy at all points, no great damage is reported.

The Elkhorn express arrived two hours late, having encountered heavy rains, oak track and bridges the entire distance. The bridge over Whitewood was threatened, and both abutments are in very shaky condition. The express returned to the south side immediately upon discharging its cargo.

Spearfish burst its bounds and flooded the country right and left, but with the exception of the mill dam which went out, no material damage resulted.

Bear Butte canyon was well washed, but the bridges remain. Doc Billington went over the route, horseback, finding the sand hill badly gullied but passable. Smith's hacks will be on time today. The ice dam at Fort Meade was slightly damaged.

Buffalo Gap received a soaking, and is glad of it.

Storm notes

Whitewood creek is a rapid stream. It is calculated that the water, when at its height, attained a speed of fifteen miles an hour...