

Excerpt from Black Hills Daily Times
Deadwood, South Dakota
June 7, 1890
FLOOD AFTERMATH
Rapid Subsidence of Water – Extent of Damage

Whitewood at 8 o'clock last evening, was six feet lower than at the same hour, Thursday, but at a fair sized river remained or rather, coursed through the city at the rate of fifteen miles an hour. With a fall of nine feet in a hundred the stream cannot well become sluggish. Until a late hour Thursday night indications of more rain were plentiful, but the heavens finally cleared and contracted currents characterized all streams. Considerable snow on the divide and saturated ground everywhere will, however, hold the steams above the normal for several days.

No additional damage is reported. The greatest wreck is observed in rear of Hunter's store, where a monster frame warehouse, partly submerged, serves as a breakwater against which the current dashes with great force and veers abruptly to the right until again deflected by the rocky base of the mountain on the east. A grain warehouse, adjoining, escaped injury, save a large hole cut into one corner and another at the rear by which access was gained and stores removed after the walk leading to the entrance had fallen. The total loss of the firm cannot fall short of \$1500. An army of men was employed at a dollar an hour removing property.

A large force of men is employed below Kidd & Benn's mill returning the stream to its proper channel. It is a laborious and tedious undertaking.

The scene at the Northwestern stable and vicinity attests the fury and force of the flood. The channel widened all of twenty feet on the east, leaving only a very small remnant of what three days ago was a spacious yard. An half dozen freight wagons are for the present effectually corralled on the little bench. The bulk head on the west was, apparently, undisturbed, although all ballast for several yards has disappeared. Bridge timbers and planking are piled on the west bank; approaches are uninjured, and the crossing can be restored at trifling expense.

A small force is at work above the Deadwood street bridge, endeavoring to change the channel to the west side. Progress is very slow. Nothing will be done in the way of repairing the bulkhead and bridge until the intentions of the Elkhorn railroad company are learned. General Manager Burt and certain Burlington officials will arrive tomorrow, and, it is believed that an arrangement will be effected by which a substantial bulkhead will be constructed by the companies conjointly.

Men employed by the city, Thursday, were paid yesterday. Upward of \$250 was disbursed. Twenty-five of the best workers continue employed.

Mayor Star and council committee on internal improvements visited City creek finding a very badly washed highway. Proper repairs will cost from \$700 to \$1,000.

In addition to their loss in the city, Fish & Hunter lost heavily at their mill on lower Whitewood where 200,000 feet of lumber was swept a short distance and jammed and with drift, piled mountains high. It is believed that much of the lumber will be saved.

The Times news and press room was given a thorough cleansing yesterday and will be reoccupied today. The counting and editorial rooms were moved into yesterday.

Smith's hacks made their regular runs to and from Sturgis yesterday. The canyon was flooded, the water in places reaching the bottom of the hacks. All bridges are intact. The Sand Hills are crossed with difficulty.

All three dams at Spearfish – those of the flour, saw, and planing mills – went out with the flood.

The Deadwood Central will not be in condition to resume operations before this afternoon if, perchance, it can do so then. The track suffered very little in Gold Run, but this side of the toll gate, where the creek heads directly for the track, the bed is badly washed and the rails covered with debris for several yards. (Note: remainder of article not included.)