

**JUDITH GANNON
DEPOSITION, June 26, 1973
(MS 81 vol. 39)**

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Q. Would you describe how you spent that night [of the flood],

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which would, of course, have been Saturday night?

A. A very unusual night. I couldn't really tell you exactly how many people was crowded into that little building. It seemed like an enormous amount to me. It was almost unbearable but it was better than being outside in the cold. There were so many people and there were people who were sick and some were vomiting, some were bleeding, some had been injured. A lot of people were talking. There was a lot of noise and confusion and smoke in the air. We had a radio up there we were trying to listen to and it would crack and pop. It was an old radio. The noise of it was what got to me. I couldn't stand the noise.

Q. You mean the noise of that whole scene?

A. Yes, the environment I was in. I wanted to find someplace where it was quiet. And everybody was dirty, we were muddy. Most of us were wet. Some people were partially dressed. it was so crowded you could not find a place to sit down. Most everybody was standing. The kids, I guess, had not realized the shock of it all and they were a little rowdy. Naturally, children would be under any circumstances. Some people had managed to save their dogs and they were in there with us and it was just a whole lot to bear.

Later that night, before the water went off, Travis Grimmet was the superintendent of the mine and he knew

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me since I worked for the company and he came over to me and he said, "Do you want to go over to the bathhouse-, There's some water over there and you can freshen up if you want to." I was very grateful for that. There was also a coke machine in the bathhouse and I had a little bit of money with me, some change, and I gave out all that I had and got me a can of coke and washed my face.

My mother brought the kids over and we cleaned up a little bit. They were not dirty. I was, I had been in the mud and water and looked like an orphan. I

cleaned up a little bit. Naturally, the bathhouse is concrete and they had benches alongside the wall. We sat down there to rest. WE were so tired we couldn't rest but we sat down for awhile. Then more people started coming in after that. Then the water went off.

Q. About what time did it go off?

A. Sometime that night, maybe 11 o'clock, something, like that. it just stopped.

Q. Did you and your family spend the rest of the night in the bathhouse?

A. Yes, we did. My little brother and little sister were sick at the time. They had bad colds and they were running a fever and they had taken a chill. Some of the lockers were open and we got towels out of the lockers. The

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men that took their baths there had the towels and some clothes were there and we made beds on the concrete floor with clothing and towels for the kids to lay down on and covered them up as best we could with the towels and things like that. They went to sleep.

Mother and I sat up for a long time. We stayed awake all night, as a matter of fact. I talked to different people. Very few people slept. Mostly the children were the only ones that slept. We stayed up all night.

Q. About how many people would you estimate were in the bathhouse?

A. In the bathhouse I would say during the night there might have been 15 to 20 people in there and then the next morning, I believe, maybe 5 or 6 o'clock, I'm not really sure of the time, more people started crowding in till it was just as crowded as it had been in the mine office because the people who had been in the houses all came in then and they had been told another dam was going to break. They were trying to get as high as they could then. It was really crowded in there again and it was worse than it was the night before because everyone -- you know, they were beginning to feel a little bit safe and then it 1.,;as all disrupted again.

Q. By this rumor of another dam --

A. Yes, by this rumor a second dam. The women

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started praying and some of them were crying and people were getting sick all over again. There was just panic in the air. I kind of had the feeling like it didn't

get me the first time, it's bound to this time."Well, it wasn't even worried about it for some reason. I just felt it was due me, they owed me because I lived through it the first times. So, I sat there and waited on it. I sat there patiently and waited for the water to come, which it did not naturally.

Q. About what time was it when either the rumor about the second dam or the people started crowding in because of the rumor and so forth. About what time did all this start?

A. When did it start?

Q. Yes.

A. It seems to me it was right after daybreak. I had been awake all night. I knew the day had started but I can't tell you what time it was. It may have been around 6 o'clock in the morning as a guess.
