

Lester Ellis Bartley
DEPOSITION, June 13, 1973
(MS 81 vol. 7)

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Q. Now on the morning of the flood, were you up and around when the floor started? Had you gotten up?

A. No. Mother woke me up--got me out of bed just about ten or fifteen minutes before, you know, we had to leave the house.

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Q. And what is your first recollection of the flood? What attracted you to the flood itself? Did someone call, out or say something to the effect the dam had broken or what was your first recollection about the flood?

A. A truck went down blowin' and Mother went to the door to see what was going on and the neighbor hollered, and told her the dam had broke and I was in the bathroom and she hollered for me to come on and I run down and we went across the railroad and the highway and through our neighbor's yard and hit the hillside.

Q. And your mother and your sister, I believe, were with you at the time?

A. Yes.

Q. Was anyone else with you?

A. No, sir.

Q. And you ran out of your house, is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. And went to the hillside?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And got up, I believe, on a tram road, an old tram road?

A. Well, we got about six to eight foot up on the hill first and then the water was so close it was splashing on our feet and we climbed on up higher and I sat

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down, you know, I was worrying about my daddy and, brother and I asked Mother, "Do you reckon Buck and Daddy made it?" And she said, "I doubt it."

And then from there we went on up to the tram road and we sat down up there and my sister had lost her shoes and Mother tore the lining out of her coat and wrapped her feet up and we went from there down to the company store and they -- like she mentioned there -- she asked if they saw Daddy or Buck to tell them we was all right, and somebody said the big dam was going to break, and we hit the hillside again in Davy Hollow and sat up on top of the hill for an hour or an hour and a half and like to froze to death, and then we come off and to our cousin's and stayed there.