

LINDA RHODES
CHARLES AND SAVANNAH RHODES

We used to live in Jenningsston
It used to be an old lumber town back in
Ear- late nineteen hundreds
But now it's not much
Used to be a meadow
And now its just gullies washed through it cause the river broke through it
Up at the top of it
And there was two houses left
There was two houses left standing
Out of a hundred
But they was tore down before the flood
And now there's only one house.
Our house got washed away
Well it's there in pieces
All the downstairs is gone
The upstairs is still there

MK: That's the house you were born in?

I lived there seventeen years

My fo-

My mom and dad lived there twenty-some years.

And there was a family that lived above us
They lived there longer than we did
And the night of the flood
One of their boys, he was twenty-eight
He came down and saved my dog
Cause it was stranded in our house
And the other day he just got killed on a four-wheeler

MK: What's his name?

Von Waybright.

He was a close member of the family.
And its been hard dealing with all of this
Cause my parents are
Sixty years old
And my dad's retired
And it just, it shouldn't have happened to them.
I'd rather for something to happen to me worse than
To happen to them.
And my sister
It almost
We had to take her
We was going to have to take her to a psychiatrist
For help
Cause it disturbed her.

We got home

Off the school bus

And I ran to the house

And my dad told me to go get some clothes cause we were going to stay at my
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sister's house over night.

And I got on the porch and looked out and my one dog was

In his dog nest

Or he was in his dog nest and he jumped out

And he was drowning cause the water was up around it

And I went out

And I unloosened him and took him with-- put him in the car

And I ran back and by the time I got all my clothes together

It was about five minutes.

The river had rose two feet.

And

Dad made us go out and get in the car and he come out and got in the car

And the bus driver left the bus there cause he couldn't make it on home

And we started down the road and the river broke through across the road

And almost stalled the engine

But we made it through there

And we went down across the bridge

And the river wasn't over the bridge yet

And we went on to my sister's

And we stayed there that, that night

And my older brother went down to look at the house about twelve o'clock

And he shined the lights on it and it everything he could see was like from
The second floor up.

And the whole bottom was like a valley.

The river was from each, each mountain.

It was pretty bad.

And then the people below us

Dorothy

Bonner

And Raymond Bonner, they lost their lives

It washed them away. They was trapped in the back of their truck

And a tree or log or something hit the truck and knocked them off

about three o'clock in the night

That was the bus driver's family.

And now the bus was laying there totalled

The river washed the bus away

Well its there but its in pieces too.

And the people that lived abou- on the other side of the river,

they lost their house and they had cattle and a barn

And it took their whole meadow and just washed it away and washed their house

And then the next morning it was, it was just unbelievable what was there

What it used to be. I mean, ther used to be a big meadow

And now it's, the river's there. The river's still under the house.

We had to wade in the river just to get what stuff we could out

We've never found any like the couches or

The TV, nothing.

And our building where we, Dad had tools and antiques

He's never found and of that.

Like some, you know, its better that it washed it all away than my parents

trying to salvage and clean stuff up and worry about it

Cause it took it all away from them.

And now since they got that shock over with they can go on

At least they don't have to worry about cleaning it up.

And my sister

It almost

We was going to have to take her to a psychiatrist

For help

Cause it disturbed her.

She's the same age as me, we're twins

And she

She always gets real nervous over things and shook up over stuff

And

That night when we went to my sister's she was crying her eyes out and

I don't know just

Weird stuff

And so, you know, I kept, I didn't cry cause, you know, I was trying to keep

her calm and telling her it would be alright and my dad was telling her

not to worry that

It wouldn't get in the house

And, I don't know, just something kept telling her that it would

The house wouldn't be there when we got back, cause that night when we left

she turned around and looked at the house as if to say good-bye to it

She didn't think she'd see it again.

And then when she saw the house the next day the front porch and the back porch
was washed off and it was laying out in the yard.

River rocks were piled up around the bottom of it about five foot

All the windows were broke out in the bottom.

And it was like underpinned cause all the dirt was washed out underneath of it.

So she just kept it bottled up inside of her

She wouldn't talk about it to people or sh- you know, mention it.

So

It just kept adding up and adding up

And plus when we had to back and clean up

A few things

She had to go help too and

It made things worse cause she had to be around there.

The way it used to be.

Cause she liked getting out

Walking outside and walking in the meadow and stuff like that.

And now it's no longer there

For her to do that.

So

She just got to the point where she was geting sick and she wouldn't eat.

So finally I sat down to her

And we, me and her just talked and she cried

She cried for about two hours

Telling me all the stuff.

We both cried

Cause of all the stuff we'd had.

I don't know, we're pretty close to our parents too

They're parents and in another way they're best friends

Cause they trust us alot.

So

She's alright now but

It just disturbed her.

We're renting a house at Flanagan Hill now

Until April

And then we have to move

Somewhere then

I don't know.

I think We're going to get a loan from FEMA

We're going to buy a trailer and live in it somewhere

Wherever we can find land

My dad's retired from the railroad so his pension isn't that well

And I hope to go to college if I can get grants

But I don't know, it don't look too good.

And its true that the flood did bring people together.

It did.

It brought us closer to the people around us

And it makes you realize the things that's not important to you

Like the stuff you spend money on that you think you have to have

To be in or whatever you want to s-

That stuff don't really matter to a person
When you almost lost your family.
Being happy and just having
A place to live and a roof over your head
and being with the people that you love
That's the only thing that really matters.
Cause if you don't have that, well then
Materials aren't going to make up for it.
Cause that's really all we did have left is love
cause all our materials was washed away.
But it was enough there to keep us all together.

We was going to sell the house
This summer. It was valued at forty-two thousand dollars
and now it's two thousand.
It destroyed it forty thousand dollars.
The next morning when we got there water was coming out the bottom windows
And you could see stuff coming out
But there was nothing you could do.
And we had to put the road back in too before we could even
Get alot of the bigger stuff out like the bed.
So it took us like three days before we could even get into the house.
My dad had some antique guns
Thirty years old
And they all washed away.

It just hurt, it hurt him, it hurt all of us

It still hurts to think about it.

You don't think something like that could happen.

But the way the river is now it could happen

Not very much rain, again, cause its all washed away the banks are

And the trees that held the soil around the banks

Its just waiting to happen again.

In a way I think it was a warning

For people.

I don't know why but it just

Something that unreal happened and it kind of makes you think about things.