

HISTORY ON THE CHANNEL

YOUR MONTHLY NEWS FLASH

F O J D C M

FRIENDS OF THE JUNEAU DOUGLAS CITY MUSEUM

# The Daily Alaska Dispatch

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## STORM BRINGS DISASTER TO CAPITAL CITY

Gold Creek Becomes a Roaring and Uncontrollable Flood of Waters, Many Homes Swept Away When New Channel Formed.

*Monday Septembers 30, 1918. [Excerpts]*

The tawny, raging waters of Gold Creek Thursday turned a number of Juneau homes into shapeless masses of debris, and in some instances hardly two boards remain together of what was once a handsome cottage....

[Due to a power outage, *The Dispatch* has been unable to publish for four days.]



The main water supply of Juneau has been cut off through the destruction of water mains by the Gold Creek torrent and landslides....

The flume of the Alaska Electric Light & Power Company has been swept away and the city was in darkness until Sunday night....



Early Thursday morning great quantities of debris came down the creek, tearing out the Gold Creek bridge on Calhoun Road and forming a jam in the narrow creek, as a result of which the powerful current broke its bounds and the resistless torrent cut a wide path through the section of the flats occupied by many handsome new cottages....

The government's hospital for natives [now the site of the Federal Building parking lot] became endangered early in the morning, and the patients were moved to places of safety in canoes. The building itself, though set upon a concrete foundation, is seriously damaged. The foundation wall along

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natives [now the site of the Federal Building parking lot] became endangered early in the morning, and the patients were moved to places of safety in canoes. part of the northerly side, and at both the ends, was swept from beneath the building. The building has sagged and while the creek was still in flood the water was running through it....

Besides the losses inflicted upon the buildings, several feet of earth have been torn from the lots, and where the houses once stood is now a barren boulder-covered creek bed, impossible as a building site.

In many instances, the owners barely had time to escape when the waters sent their homes swirling away, a mass of twisted debris. The damaged area extends from the Gold Creek bridge on Calhoun Avenue to the waterfront, and at places up and down Willoughby Avenue from the powerhouse [on Capital Avenue] to the dairy [Twelfth Street and Glacier Avenue]. Ninth Street bridge was also taken out.



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