

This is not just the story about a flood, because floods are not unique to many parts of the United States. This is more a story about a town, a town we like to pattern ours after, much like Crescent City, a community that bounced back from a flood and has a great belief in its future.

On August 8, precipitation started in the Chena River Basin, which had been activated by a series of low-pressure systems which moved in from the Aleutian Islands. This was accompanied by the dying typhoon, Hope.

During the period August 8 to 15, approximately 61½ inches of precipitation was deposited in the Chena River Basin.

It had been a normal July and the river height at the beginning of the month of August was 61½ feet.

In this slide here you see the city of Fairbanks with 18.8 feet. Truly, we could probably have been called Marineland, North. In fact, we were slightly concerned, with the freezeup coming, whether or not we were going to convert the community into the world's largest ice skating rink.

During this period when the community was covered by the water of the Chena and the Tanana, a good 95 percent of the families and businesses in the community were affected, close to 19,000 people were evacuated to various facilities that provided shelter. It was indeed a dark day for Fairbanks.

However, the spirit of the people, which is typical of a pioneering State, was not to be denied, and as the waters of the river began to recede into their banks on August 21, we had to face up to the job of building a bigger and better Fairbanks.

The year 1967 was the 100th year of the purchase of Alaska.

The community had worked hard to construct, thanks to the aid of our former Congressman, Ralph Rivers, and the help coming from Senator Bartlett, we were able to put together an exhibition that showed the history of Alaska.

Our friends at Fort Wainwright, as shown in this picture here, were also immobilized and the entire effort of the military there ground to a halt.

Mr. WRIGHT. These fires were caused by an electrical shortage; is that right?

Mayor BOUCHER. Yes, they were. They had electrical shortages during that time, and numerous fires broke out and we were not able to get any of the fire equipment through them at all.

Mr. WRIGHT. The buildings just burned right to the waterline.

Mayor BOUCHER. Yes, they did.

This is what most of us faced during the period August 21 until the end of August.

The devastation throughout the community was almost total. The loss in personal property ran into the billions of dollars.

The year 1967 was the 100th anniversary of the State of Alaska. The people of that community, much as in Congressman Clausen's community, have no desire to give up. Many people said there would be a great loss in population. However, this is not the case.

An example of Fairbanks' faith in its future can best be expressed by a recent hospital drive that the community conducted for its bene-