

Bradys Bend Historical Society

Newsletter 2011

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Greetings!



It's been a very long winter, and we're truly looking forward to better weather! In December and January, we went over 4 weeks below 32 degrees, and had more nights below 10 degrees than during the last three years. Our total snowfall was over 12 feet throughout the winter (and it snowed today and three days last week). We had two high water scares (when the ice went out, there was some damage in some of the camps below the bridge - see above-, and when the first nice days brought snow runoff, the Fish Commission Park was once again under water.)

We had tornado warnings, high wind

alerts,
school
delays
and
closings
for snow
and
wind
chill, and
lots of
icy



walking and driving. Due to the heavy salting and plowing, the roads are in dreadful shape and the storm sewers are full of muck.

But we made it through, and have even stopped to look back for worse disasters. We found them.

On March 16, 1936, warmer-than-normal temperatures led to the melting of snow and ice on the upper Allegheny and Monongohelia rivers. These rivers and their tributaries were already over their banks and were threatening the city of Pittsburgh. On March 17, 1936 the waters reached flood stage of 25 feet. Heavy rains overnight caused the waters to rise quickly, and on March 18, the water peaked at about 46 feet, 21 feet above flood stage. Five days later, on March 21, the water finally receded to 24 feet. About 100,000 buildings were destroyed and the damage was estimated at about \$250 million (or, roughly, \$3 billion in today's dollars). Steel mills that were located around the three rivers suffered