Images of the Month
December, 2010
Floods in Santa Clara County

Photographs are from the County Office of Planning Photograph, Slide and Film Collection
http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt400031k7/
These photographs can be viewed at the Archives.

Caption from back of photograph:

“Santa Clara Valley’s plight is adequately rolled up in one aerial photo. Here’s the flooded Greenvale Manor tract in east Sunnyvale. A hundred families fled area during storm’s height yesterday.” (Photo by Mercury Staff Photographer Dave Milton from a plane piloted by James Nissen.) December 24, 1955.

These houses are actually in Santa Clara. The road at right is Agate Drive, and the road at bottom is Pilot Knob Drive.
Alviso, January 14, 1952. “Flooded Alviso residents who tried to check on belongings yesterday found boats only way to get around without sloshing thru afoot.”

Alviso, January 1, 1952. “More than 30 families were moved out of Alviso in wake of flood. Among them were family of H. L. Clancy, left. Resident of Short’s Camp, Clancy’s cabin floor was under water. Under supervision of Red Cross, Clancys were moved to Assemblies of Holiness Church (in background). Assisting in moving family are church’s pastor, the Rev. Billy Harrison, carrying Jerry and Tommy Clancy, and Lowell Clancy.”


January 14. Circa 1950s. Los Gatos Bridge over Los Gatos Creek.

“The raging storm destroyed concrete as if it were a flimsy material. Above is the big cavity knocked out of the approach to Los Gatos Bridge over Los Gatos Creek. This photo was taken on San Jose Avenue.”

Gilroy, January 1, 1952.

“This pickup truck became a motorized island when water piled up on west side of Gilroy’s Monterey Street during heavy weekend downpour. No damage was reported in area although Carnadero and Pajaro Rivers experienced sharpest rises of season. Both were well danger stage, however. Flooding of Llagas Creek placed portion of Bloomfield Avenue under water.”
Circa 1950s or 1960s. A family cleans the debris left by a flood in front of their home.