

Teton Dam

Recovering a community

On the afternoon of June 5, 1976, Governor Cecil Andrus declared an extreme state of emergency and mobilized the National Guard. On June 6, the day following the failure, President Gerald Ford declared it a disaster. In the days that followed, citizens, communities, and agencies faced the long cleanup process, beginning with their homes, farms, and businesses. Many citizens were provided shelter, food, and clean water at local churches and businesses. Bus loads of volunteers—in excess of 40,000—from surrounding areas arrived to offer help wherever needed, contributing thousands of hours of support and personal resources.



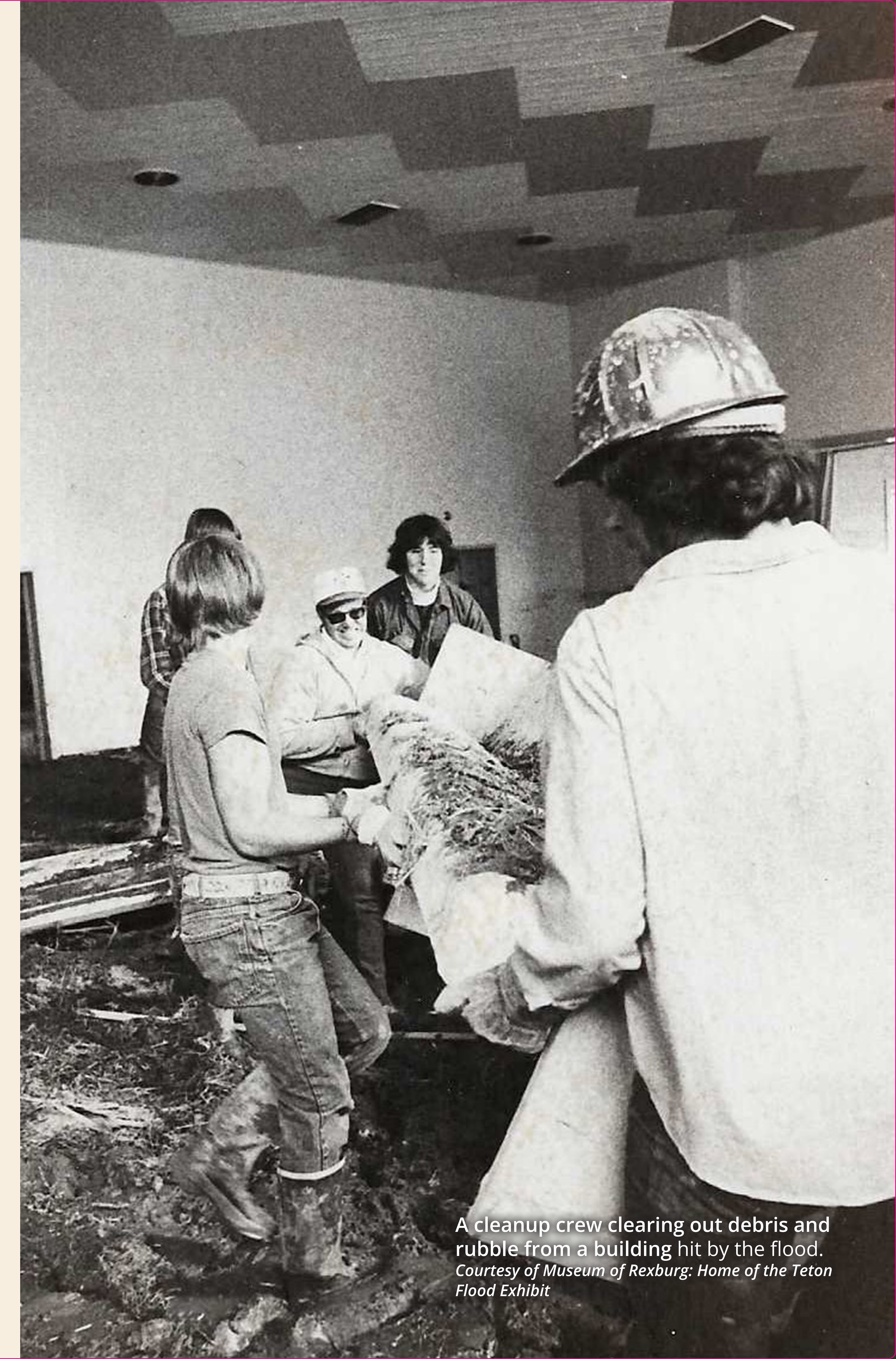
Cleanup crew helping pick up and haul away flood debris.
Courtesy of Museum of Rexburg: Home of the Teton Flood Exhibit



The J.C. Penney Co. and Classic Shoppe Ladies Wear on Main Street in Rexburg. Outside the buildings are rubble, wood, furniture, and shelving debris. *Courtesy of Museum of Rexburg: Home of the Teton Flood Exhibit*



Wood and lumber scattered throughout town had to be cleaned up.
Courtesy of Museum of Rexburg: Home of the Teton Flood Exhibit



A cleanup crew clearing out debris and rubble from a building hit by the flood.
Courtesy of Museum of Rexburg: Home of the Teton Flood Exhibit

Floodwater destruction resulted in 11 lives lost and \$400 million in total damages, including the following:

- 112,000 acres of farmland inundated
- Nearly 20,000 livestock lost
- 32 miles of railroad track destroyed
- \$5.5 million in highway damage
- 250 business structures impacted
- 3,500 agricultural buildings damaged
- 4,000 homes flooded
- 65 canal systems disrupted, leaving 427,000 acres of crops without irrigation