

THE GREAT UNION TURNPIKE FLOODS OF 1963

By Bob Friedrich

Heavy rains and a lack of sewers and catch basins created unprecedented flooding on Union Turnpike and in Glen Oaks Village in the Autumn of 1963 in the aftermath of Hurricane Donna. Luckily Jimmy Ciorra the original owner of C&T Hairstylists at 248-16 Union Turnpike captured it all in these pictures. The photo to the right shows a picture of flooded UTP. The Kwik Union supermarket later became Jerrys Artarama and is now the 99¢ Store. Waves lap at the front entrance.



Jimmy Ciorra, the original owner of C&T Hairstylists (standing in the middle) took these pictures. C&T is the storefront with the awning to the left of the supermarket. Johnny Tilly who provided these photos and one of the original owners is standing to the right.

Johnny Tilly, shown at right today in C&T Hairstylists which is still located in the same place, points to the high water mark reached during the floods of 1963. He says that if you remove the paneling you can still see the water mark.



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THEN & NOW.



1963

Union Turnpike looking at the east bound lanes near 249th Street.

2005



1963



2005

