The Great Arkansas River Flood of 1965

"It was dirty, stinking. It had everything in it. From Dodge City, that water was eight feet deep in south Dodge, so it had everything in it. Gas, and stink, and pigs

Kenny Dupree

Half Of Kinsley

"We had a gentleman in the hospital who was really, really ill.

When they got ready to take him out, he had to be taken out by

ambulance. Our ambulance at that time was McKillip's hearse!

Judi McKinney

A doctor in Spearville decided that he could take another lady.

They ended up taking her out in one of the sand

trucks from the county. She got in the front with

the guy because they were afraid the water was

going to be too high."

"Sacks and gunny sacks were brought in and there were lots of people working all over town trying to sand bag doors and garage doors and do what they can to protect it." AKKANSAS RIVER FLOODS

"We got a call that said Dodge City, the whole town was on fire and could we come help them....We come over that hill on the bypass and you could just see smoke on the horizon over there....Water had got into their gas distributing plant and raised the pressure. About every other house, their meters were on fire." Buford Brodbeck

> "The city decided that the water was backing into town and they held a city meeting. My division superintendent and I went to it, and they decided they would blow up the Santa Fe Railroad Bridge. My boss told them, 'No. You're not blowing it up.' So we took his high rail vehicle out there and set it on the bridge and took a section crew out there. They had long poles, and they poked debris under the bridge. It was a brand new deck girder bridge with no piers down in the river; it spanned the whole thing. The only piers were on the ends. There was no impediment of flow through the deck bridge."

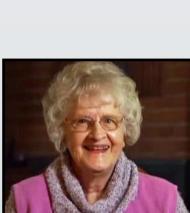
> > Jim Mowrey

"It was a lot of water! It was a rush! (As a kid) It was fun! Just stay out of the streets because the man hole covers would pop up and the water push up." Doug Burr

"I insisted they move all of our furniture into Bob's parents' garage on 7th Street. We even took the doors off and the cabinet doors. We saved a lot because we did have 11" or 12" water in our house. Then we were afraid the water was going to run through his parents' garage, so we moved our furniture into their living room, and it sat there for 3 or 4 weeks.

But we saved everything!" Nancy Weidenheimer

"We moved all of our pets. Bill, my son, had a lot of animals: 25 turtles, banty chickens, ground squirrels, and a chipmunk. They were in cages, so everything was moved out, and we all camped at Mother's."



"Water was just shooting out of the storm drains, coming back."

other way to get it out." Susan Mathes





Wet & Dry Coon Creek Floods November & May, 1973

"My first real recollection of any flooding in the community is of 1971 when I was a junior in high school. A flood of Coon Creek forced them to evacuate the rest home in the north end of town They brought the residents to the cafeteria and we didn't have school for about a week."

"My great-grandmother that was in the rest home had to be transported to a higher level of property through a row boat." Marsha Bagby

of Offerle had six inches of rain, and that's where the North Coon begins. They both hit town at the

"In '71, I had bought the ground in the

west part of town to build a new meat

Coon Creek flooded, and we marked on

processing plant. In '71, the North

a power line pole out there the high

to build, we built it a foot above that

mark on the pole. Then in '73 both

the sidewalk on my plant. We

need to; it didn't get in."

sandbagged, but we really didn't

water mark. Then when we got ready

Coon Creeks flooded. It got right up to

"The '71 flood was just rain after rain after rain.... Every creek in this county was flooded. Bridges was out. All the bridges was jammed with trees. It took us over a year to clean the bridges out and repair damages. But that was the worst I've ever seen because the whole county was flooding at that time."

Harold Burkhart

Regulations & Mitigations Questions Flood Control Claims in principal was pure interest. Was pure the control of the contr

In 1973, flood insurance was available under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. This involved zoning regulations, a building code for new construction in the flood plain and prohibited construction in the floodway without federal approval.

"The Corps of Engineers....gave us two options: either move the city or build a dike. They told us that if we could come back and put it up for a vote and if it would get voted in, that they would build a dike. They'd get the dirt from city property out south of the airport and make a recreation area, fishing pond and picnic area. "

"I was on the city commission when the levy was proposed. A lot of people were for it; a lot of them were against it. I said, to myself, I'm not going to make a decision that's going to affect everybody in town. Let's put it to a vote and let the people decide."

In November 1979 & March 1980 two proposals to build a levy around Kinsley were defeated.

SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS TAKEN

- 1) Improved flood warning system
- 2) Installed gauging stations in creeks and river
- 3) Redrew map to remove floodway designation for the south part of town and allow for new construction
- 4) Redrew floodplain map to remove some areas
- 5) Constructed two diversion channels to take the flood waters from business district and from 5th Street out to Coon Creek.
- 6) Cleaned vegetation and debris from creeks

"In the early '70's, the city built a dike west of my house to help divert that water to the north. A few years ago, they redid the highway... and the contractor cut that berm down along the ditch. I asked the contractor ...to put it back....to go talk to the city and the county people. They decided that it should be there, so they filled it back in." Doug Burr

"Having the flood plain regulations in place sometimes can be an mpediment to people building things they'd like to, but what I want people to understand is, in my time, there's never been anybody who wanted to build something and couldn't. It just simply means the way you build it and perhaps the cost of it will increase somewhat. We will work with anybody to help them build whatever they would like.... We are like all communities. Our economy has changed drastically over the last 50 years.... So we fight the battle that all small communities are fighting and these flood plains regulations sometimes make that battle even more difficult."

Flood Control Up To Voters "The Idea" Flood Control

Dike Proposal Brings Flood of Complaints

VOTE YES X NOVEMBER Election Results \$200,000 Bond to Finance Flood Control for City of

Election Results \$200,000 Bond to Finance Flood Control for City of Kinsley.



"When I was on the city commission, we were doing the remapping and we didn't get as much as we'd have liked....The city has put in drain tubes or drain culverts to put the water back into Coon Creek and a large diversion ditch on Elizabeth Street on the east side of Kinsley which can carry a great amount of water. It is also designed with a gate that the water can go out but can't go back in, in case it ever runs backwards again."

"The ditch that is just east of here on Elizabeth Street has helped our street because it used to flood every time it rained. Our gutters would be full, way up over the gutters, almost up to the drive a few times. Now, we don't have that problem. It very seldom gets above the gutter, so that has really helped."

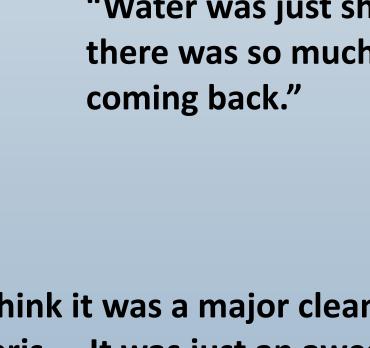
Virginia Gleason

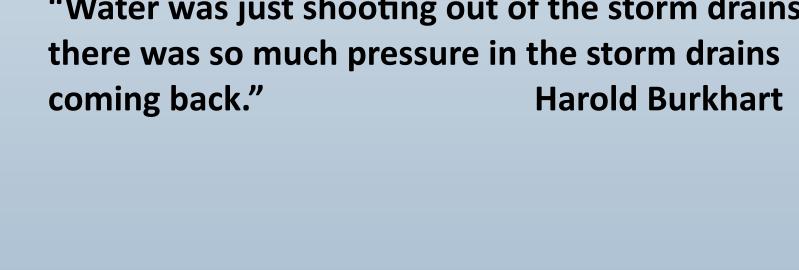
"Within the city limits, the city participates in the flood program, but the county does not. I had a home outside of the city limits by less than a mile that we had four offers on this last year. Three of them fell through because ... you couldn't get flood insurance. No bank could loan on it. Finally the buyer was somebody with cash...That does hurt residential areas outside the city limits." John Ploger

"The map was built so that more areas of our community could come out.... We could annually do at least one project to show the community that we are continually working on addressing our issue....There are small things as well as large things that could be done. ... You would just remap the area that would be impacted." **Marsha Bagby**

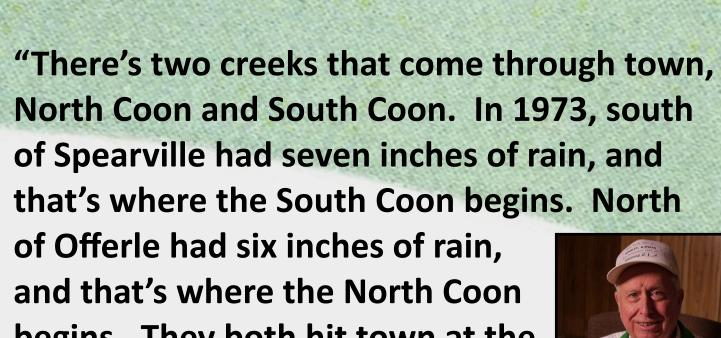








"I think it was a major cleanup because there was so much debris.... It was just an awesome mess....there was water in the yard....The basement was full of water, old straw, nasty, nasty stuff. My husband had to shovel it out; there was no



September 27, 1973 - Flood waters from Big Coon Creek near 10th Avenue and Briggs Street (City of Kinsley Photo)