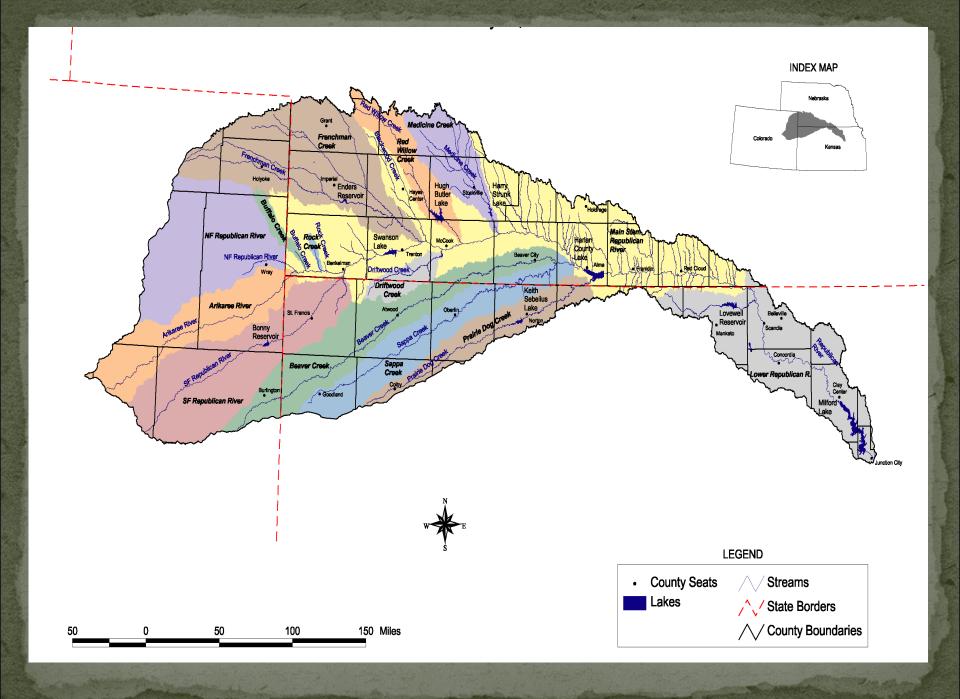


"Farmers and villagers say that after the drought come two other dreaded Riders of the Apocalypse = flood and tornado."

The McCook Daily Gazette, June 3, 1935







STRATIFIED ALLUVIUM IN RIVER BANK, REPUBLICAN RIVER, ABUTTING AGAINST LOESS AND GUMBO.



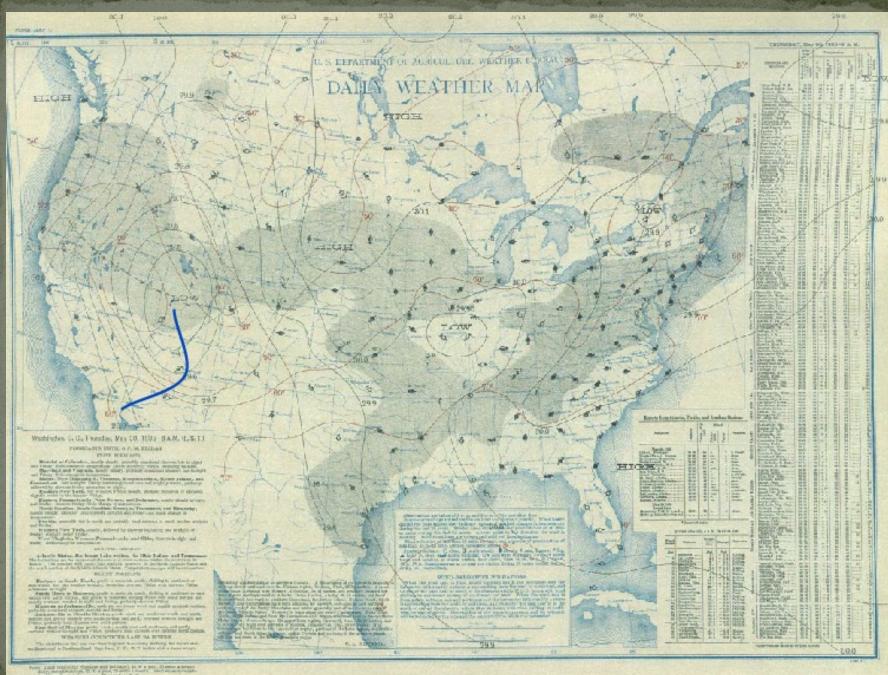


Table 1. Damage from Flood of 1935, Southwestern Nebraska (from: U.S. Geological Survey Water Supply Paper 796-B)

	Nebraska	Kansas	Colorado	Total
Persons killed	94	10	6	110
Livestock killed	8,100	12,193	300	20,593
Poultry killed	46,500	NA	NA	*******
Highways damaged (miles)	341	484	5	830
Highway bridges	307	202	6	515
Crops damaged (acres)	42,000	221,507	NA	
Farmland damaged (acres)	57,000	202,615	15,000	274,615
Railroads (miles)	NA	171	NA	
Railroad bridges	NA	83	NA	***

NA - not available

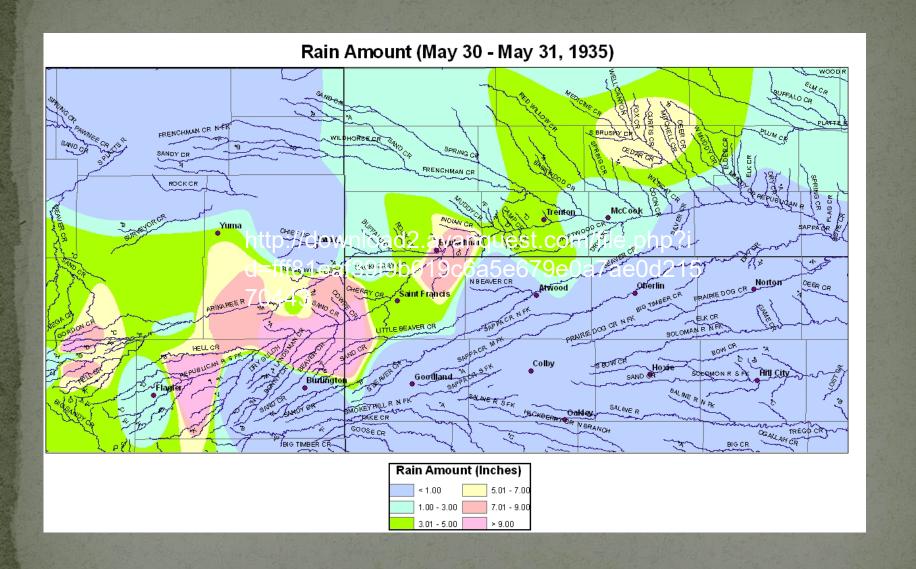
The Dirty '30s

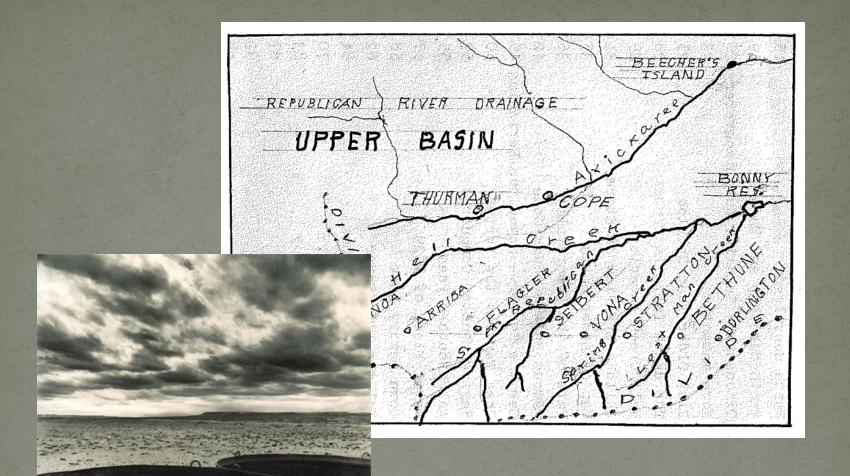


Photo courtesy





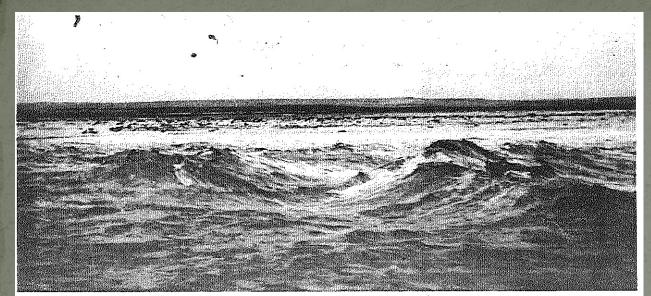




Colorado







The Strobels could hear the roar of the water four miles south of the river - notice the waves.





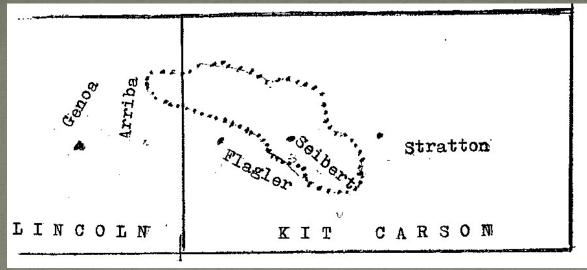




Victims of Eastern Colorado's greatest disaster, Left top, Wayne Gesner, whose body, fully clothed, was found after three days 35 miles down stream. Top right, Mrs. Gesner. Bottom, Clarence Lothlan, in whose home the three perished.

Seibert, Colorado

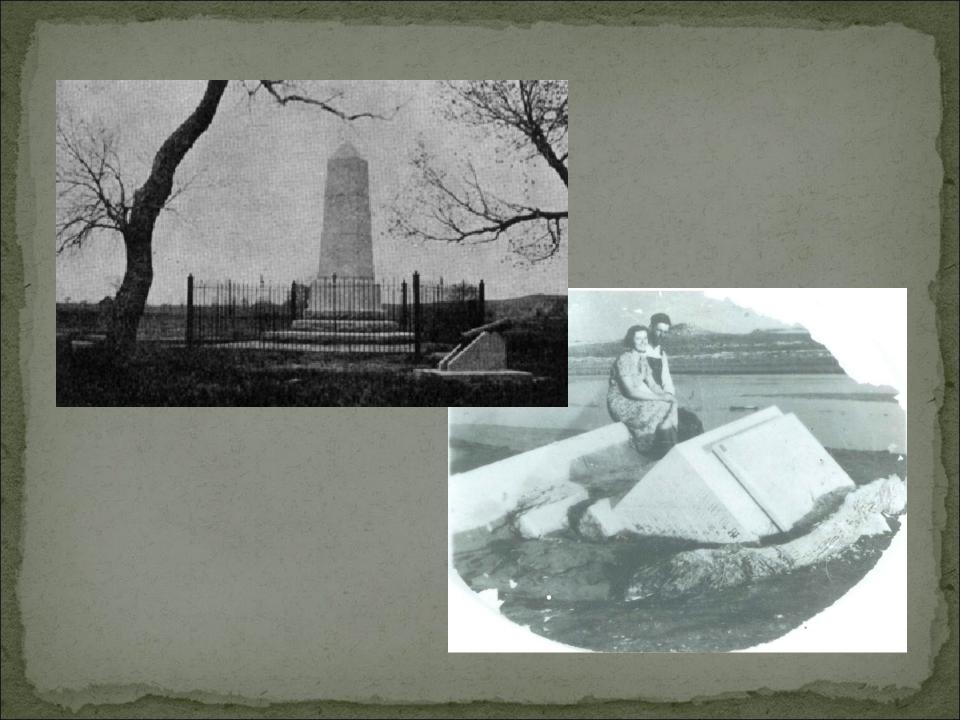




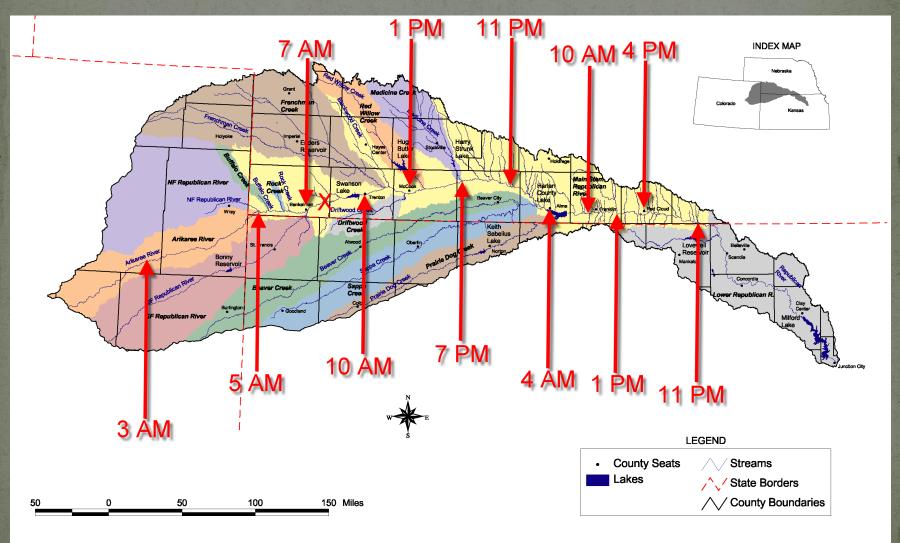








Time of Crests















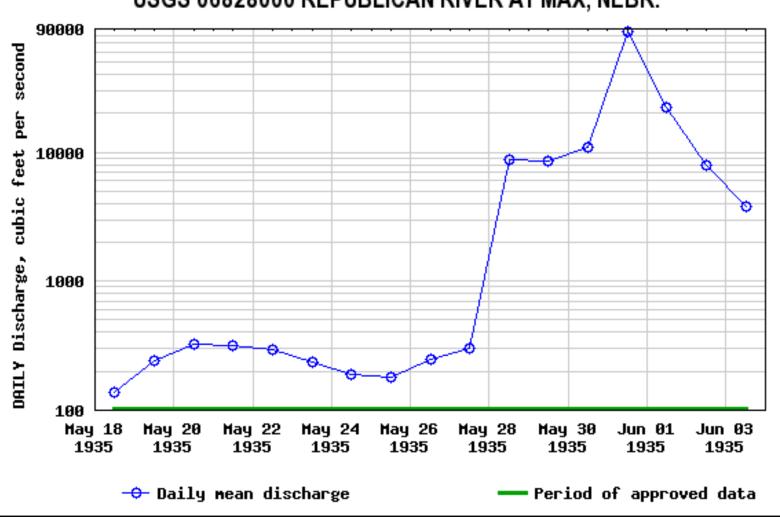






≥USGS

USGS 06828000 REPUBLICAN RIVER AT MAX, NEBR.









1935 flead from Depet Reaf.
Complete flood Stery









The Rain Begins to Fall

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The McCook Power Plant









Robert "Bob" French





Total Destruction







GEORGE WING FAMILY SAVED BY TREES

Mr. and Mrs. George Wing, Alvy and Lulu and Fred Ray spent most of the time from five o'clock Friday evening until two o'clock Saturday afternoon in some big trees just east of where their nome stood.

When the water began rising, they hitched up a team and prepared to drive to town but heard that it was impossible to get past the Coon Creek Flood. They went back into the house again and as the water rose they retreated upstairs.

It finally became apparent that the house would not survive the shock of the raging waters. It moved off the foundations and up against some trees just east.

The family went out of the upstairs window onto the roof of the porch and from there to the trees. Fred Ray caught some wreckage that floated past and made a seat for the women. The house trembled and broke into parts and floated away.

Paul Malleck, Homer Duckworth and Merle Colling took a boat and in dangerous waters brought the parties to land. The farm is now a part of Finnell's island.

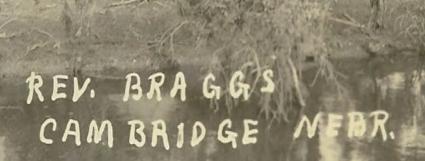


Indianola, Nebraksa



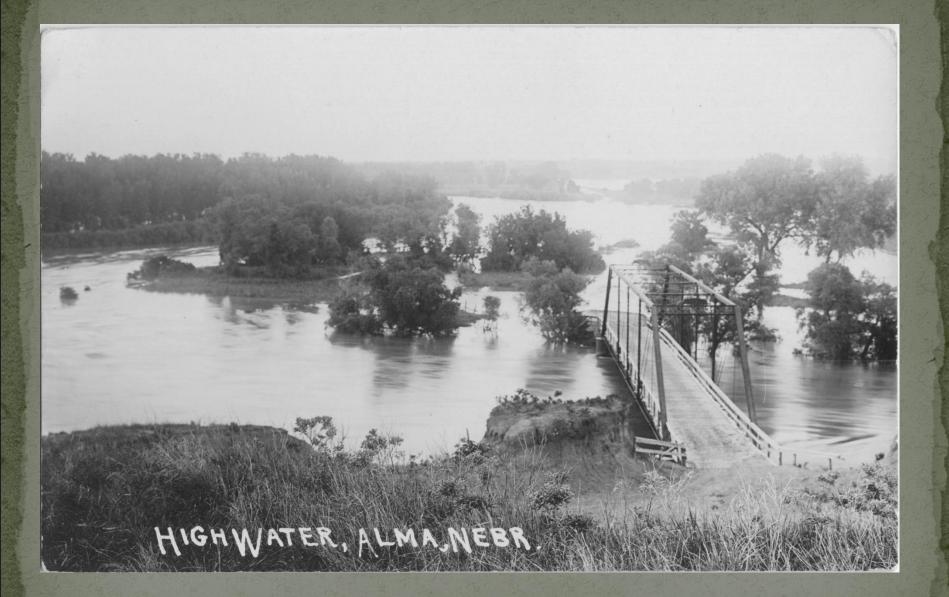












Alma, Nebraska

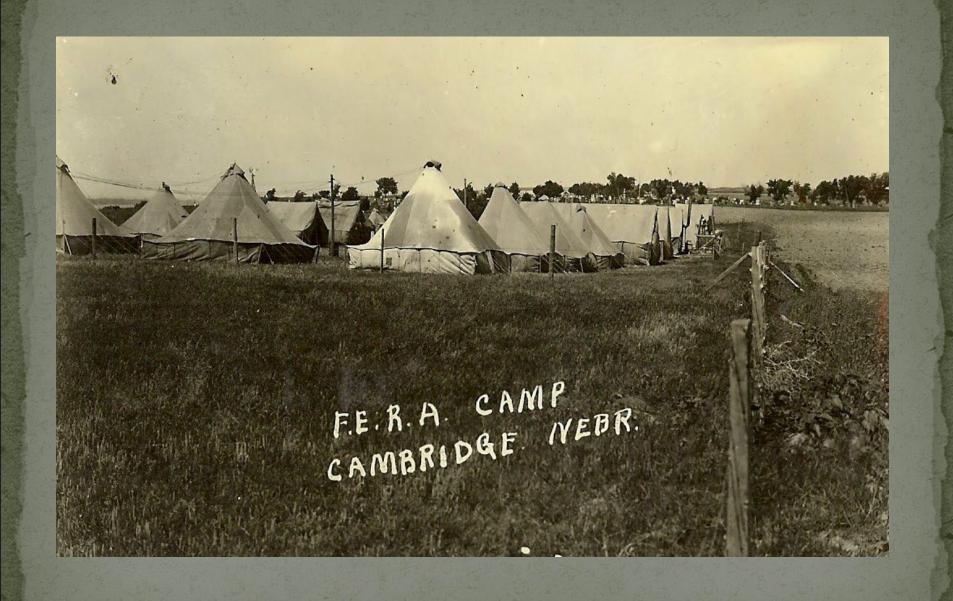


cowcaught by Horns on Bridge





FLOOD WATERS CONCORDIA, KAN. JUNE 2 1935



Twister Kills Three

The dawn of a perfect day over Southwest N with it sights unbelievable -- a devastated val gether with a territory extending for miles r wreckage and ruins. But the dawn, with a benediction to scores of persons, who during frantically to some obstruction in the water, of their home. As the waters recede, now waters still filling the valley, while other volu swept divide for those made homeless during

While the Republican was on its Rampage, taking its toll of human life, another of nature's terrors was taking its toll of dead and injured north and west of McCook.

A tornado struck that rich farming area near McCook about 4:30 p. m., Fri. afternoon, leaving in its wake three dead, at least nine injured, some seriously, and great damage to homes. Farm buildines and cross

Disasters Strike Flood of 1935 Terrible Monster

so threat, and give many ts of McCook and the rest of

at that wasn't the case on June 1, 1935. The

But that wasn't the case on June 1, 1903. The Republican Valley was a shambles, lying devastated in the wake of the worst disaster of its recorded history. The Republican had unleashed its worst flood, claiming over 100 lives (historians disagree but the figure most often used 113 or 113) and causing an estimated \$5 million in

The bills and valleys, already soaked, could not absorb the downpour and every tributary of the shallow, winding Republican added to the surfiling volume of water.

Surfiling volume of water.

Surfiling volume of water and the surfiling volume of water suddenly found themselves trapped in the dirty onalsaight of rushing, death-cealing water.

For the water, others received warnings but ignored them because of many false alarms along the river and its tributaries in past years. Surfiling the surfiling water of the water, others received warnings escape routes, most songht the upper stories or roots of their homes. While some were rescued, to the other the water users away or

opportunity presented itself for rescue. In fact, it was necessary for the manager, who was not be opened to the manager, who was to be rescued."

In McCook, the largest part of which was at 100d, only four or five houses were actually destroyed and no lives were lost except those flood, only four or five houses were actually destroyed and no lives were lost except those About seven houses were partially or completely inundated and five were washed away pieces and lodged in the bridge near the power plant. Two others were washed from their foundations, but were later moved to higher foundations, but were later moved to higher

SECTION ONE ed Glass had a myer. Run by a

paper was even dedition.

damaged.

as that of 1915, which had previously been called the "Big Flood."

called the "Big Flood."
The second was the huge May 31 flood while a third one came, even as the massive rebuilding effort was under way, on June 13 and the effort was under way, on June 13 and the struck June 16-17.
An unofficial report of the state hydrographer stated that the maximum flow near McCook was 200 times normal. The peak flow near McCook was 171,000 cubic feet of the peak flow near McCook or the peak flow in the state hydrographer stated that the maximum flow near McCook was 171,000 cubic feet of the peak flow in the state hydrographer of the state hydrographer of

water per second.

The tales of rescue during the disaster are many and they are heroic. The spirit with itself from future floods is a matter of legend.

Even during the huge cleanup after the big flood, pature continued to do its best to discourage valley residents, launching the two floods that followed the major one.

ions.

19. May 31 until rought by train to Cook. First class cok, then put on And four weeks after the flood, a tornado ripped through a farm north of Benkelman and the Arickaree River spilled from its banks and stalled highway traffic.

saited highway traffic.

Even as the flood waters were receding, however, a handful of men went to Lincoin and washington to seek help in rebuilting the that the men looked into the future and realized that the men looked into the future and realized that Southwest Nebraska would always be plans were made.

While no person could condone the disaster of while no person could condone the disaster of ere its tracks and

plans were made.
While no person could condone the disaster of 25, it is true that it triggered one of the most comprehensive conservation efforts ever seen in the United States.

Republican Valley Conservation Association was formed, and the group pushed for the expenditure of more than \$100 million in water control projects that made the Republican control projects that made the Republican anywhere.

en were rescued e next day and by h had been tran-were digging out ere set up and the antil service was mywhere.

The flood was also the catalyst for many land conservation practices of individual farmers

10:50 a.m. that

orst flood in the history out a few cigarettes

o cleaning up and ement (all wasn't e service to Mc-uilt across the old line. At 2 a.m. ready for service 8 hours after the 8 hours after the d, the city pumps

and ranchers.

Today, the loss of McCook, and of the Today, the loss of the Today, the loss of the los

THE DENVER POST-FIRST IN EVERYTHING-SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 2, 1935

FLOOD SPREADS IN NORTHEAST COLORADO RICH FARMLANDS ARE INUNDATED; NEW RECORDS MADE BY FLOOD WATER

Sterling Water Supply Cut Offf as Mains Are Torn

THIRTY MILES

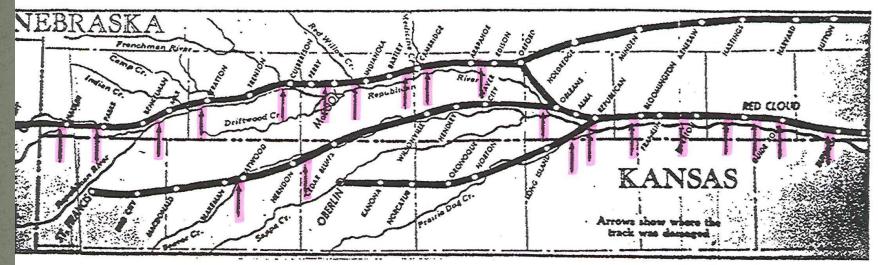
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THE POST'S CIRCULATION

COMPARATIVE CIRCULATION OF THE POST FOR MAY, 1934 AND 1935

WIDE AT BRUSH

To strain the first the strain of the strai

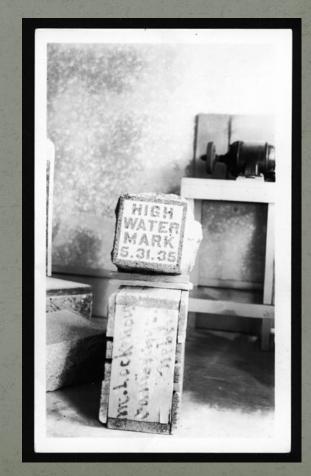


Burlington, Bible

MAP OF THE BURLINGTON RAILROAD IN THE REPUBLICAN VALLEY

Arrows indicate stretches of the railroad where the tracks were washed out by the flood. Such destruction from Haigler to Superior illustrates the continued ferocity of the flood waters in their movement down the valley.









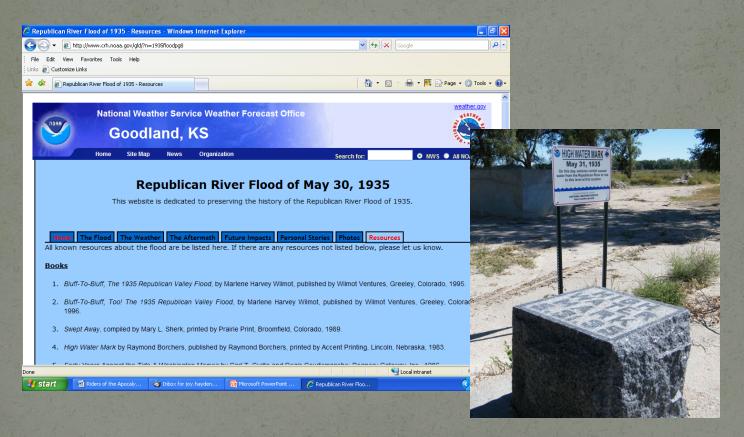
Preserving history allows us to...







... learn from the past.



www.weather.gov/gld

Learn more about the Flood

Historians

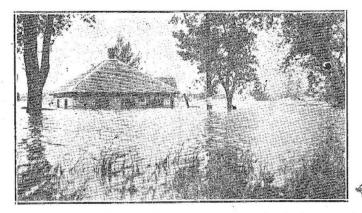
Jan Carman & the Cheyenne County Kansas Historical Society Russ Dowling – Museum of the High Plains - McCook Lucille Edwards – Personal Scrapbook Collection Linda Hein – Nebraska State Historical Society Lincoln, NE Virginia Roberts – Cambridge Museum

Authors:

Mary Sherk – Swept Away – Out of Print
Marlene Harvey Wilmot - Bluff to Bluff & Bluff to Bluff, Too!
Raymond Borchers – High Water Mark – Out of Print
V. S. Fitzpatrick – Back Trail Disaster – Out of Print

FLOOD MSCOOK 5-31-35

From The Stratton News, Thursday, June 13, 1935



The Bert Donaldson home in Southwest Stratton. The family escaped.

Anyone living on a flood plain is just waiting in the river's wings.

Where the Crawdad's Sing by Delia Owens

Stratton, NE - May 2023



