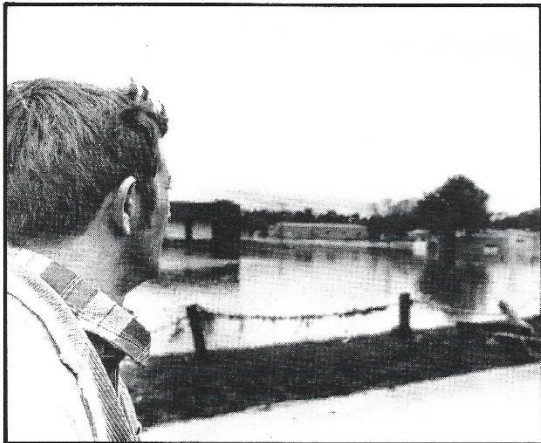


The Big Disaster of '86

Ronda Beerbower & Jeannie Anderson

This report is about the flood of 1986. It has to do with Belltown and the rest of Fort Scott and the family business.

My dad had a tire service in Belltown until the flood came and washed all of the tires away. When the water went down they started collecting the tires. Many were found hanging in trees, put there by the high flood waters. Dad worked hard cleaning up after the flood. He started out with around 10,000 tires and, after gathering what few he could find, he ended up with about 1,000.



Robert Squires 37-7



Gary Erie 64-21



Chuck Elliott 58-14



Robert Squires 37-1

There was another Beerbower business in Belltown that was completely submerged under water: Beerbower Roofing.

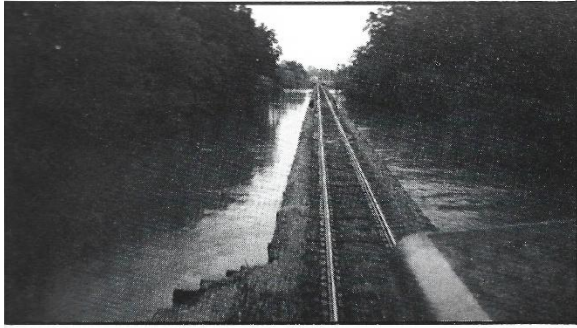
My uncle had cows standing on the roof of his house. They were trying to stay out of the flood waters. It was very scary.



Chuck Elliott 58-15

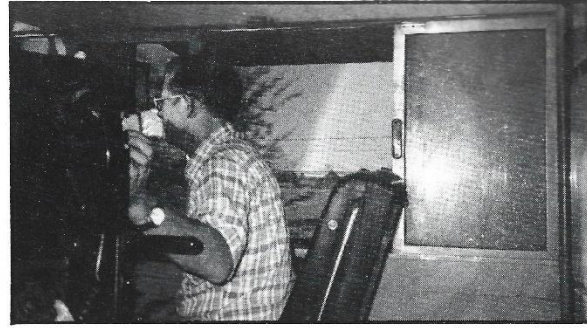


Peggy Clark 47-7



at the end of the line . . .

Dub Law 63-14



. . . is a rainbow

Dub Law 63-17

The Flash Flood

Mary Hagood

There was a flash flood Friday, A lot of schools were cancelled. Middle School bus riders got out early. There were a lot of basements that were flooded. There were airplanes and helicopters out because streets were flooded. There were houses that were over flooded. The high rise was flooded. Mrs. Williams was running around and telling every body that school was cancelled. She was getting all wet.

Bryan Davis

There once was a week,
That it rained all day.
The rain filled the creek,
And washed many things away.

The water rose higher & higher,
And seeped into many basements.
This damaged many washers & dryers,
Which made for many replacements.

Many people worked hard & long,
to help their friend & neighbor.
Everyone was very brave & strong,
As it took many hours of labor.

It was a big battle,
Because everything turned to mud.
Some people lost their cattle,
In the Fort Scott flood.

Trenton Ropp

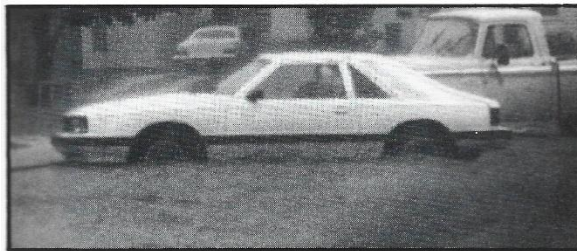
On October 3, 1986 a disastrous flood occurred in Fort Scott, Ks. Because of steady rainfall over a one week period, the 21 inches of rain could not be contained by the Marmaton River. On the morning of October 3, I remember being taken to school by my mom as the buses were running late, due to road conditions. As we approached town that morning from the north we realized the severity of the overnight flooding when we spotted a diesel truck unable to escape the fast rising waters on Highway 54. The water had reached the bottom of the cab window. The whole surrounding area was becoming a lake. The Red Ram Motel and the Homestead Mobile Home business were disappearing because of the rapidly rising water.

As we were attempting to exit off the Highway and enter onto Wall Street we found ourselves in a traffic jam as Wall Street was flooded. Cars had to back up on the one-way exit ramp and proceed on the highway to 3rd Street.

We made it to school but some of the roads were barely passable. I wondered if I could make it back home that afternoon. We ended up spending the night in town as the roads leading to our house were impassable.

Close friends of ours, John and Chick Durling were very much affected by the flood. Their business, the Animal Care Center, was almost completely underwater.

I was down at the clinic when the were finally able to get into the building. When we entered we saw insulation that had fallen out of the ceiling floating in the water in pieces. All the drugs were floating in the water also. We had to get buckets and cardboard boxes to pick up the drugs. John Durling's office was a total mess. His desk was lying up against the wall. All the torn-up insulation was on his desk and walls. We started looking for all the records. We kicked our feet in the black, dirty and smelly water to see if we could locate them. I found one. They opened it up and it was all soggy. The ink on it was all smeared. The walls were all slimy with grass and mud. During the next few weeks helping the Durlings clean up gave me first hand knowledge of how devastating a flood can be.



Melissa Albers 3-16



12 E

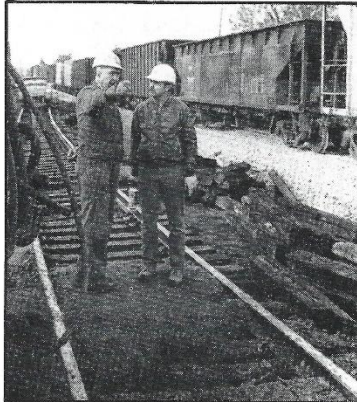
Clete Hall 6-1

Condensary Road Derailment



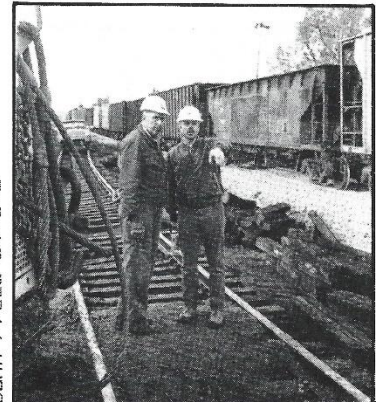
John Freed 54-5-6

I've been working
on the ...



John Freed 54-5-7

You ask him
where to go ...

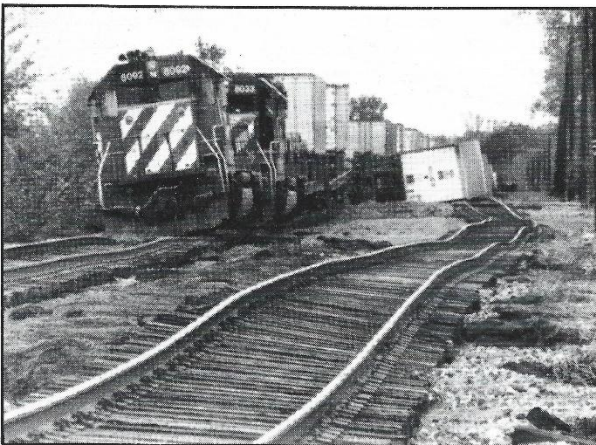


John Freed 54-5-8

... he'll tell you!



John Freed 54-5-23



John Bartlesmeyer 29-19

Old Trains Stopped in Their



Betty Walker 48-31

Mingled Memories



Tremont Hotel shimmers in the flood waters John Freed 54-3-9



Oct. 3—10:45AM



It really got deep here!

Mrs. Earl Dody 33-11 Clarence Nation 38-27



Saturday, October 4, 1986.

Jeff Tubach

The flood destroyed lots of things.



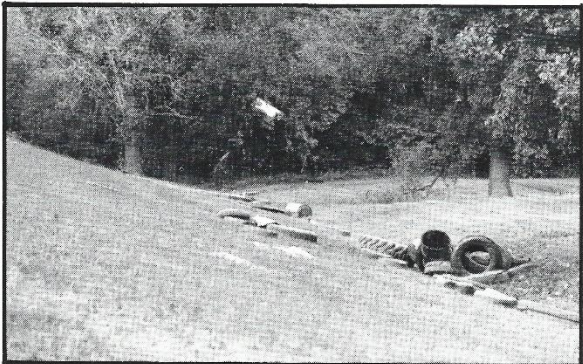
Teresa Cowen 65-1



Teresa Cowen 65-11

It destroyed houses, cars and more. It washed out roads

and people were stuck in their homes.



Peggy Clark 47-16



Teresa Cowen 65-8



Teresa Cowen 65-4

We had lots of people helping get people out. But in a way it was kind of good, it showed the town could work together.



Jim Renard 42-4

As the flood of '86 covered a lot of ground, so the book **'86 FLOOD** covered a lot of things. If you would like to comment on this book, submit a story, poem or photo for consideration in a sequel, or purchase additional copies of **'86 FLOOD**, please write me. Thank you for buying this copy and I hope it will help you keep kind memories of the devastating tragedy of October 3, 1986.

John D. Freed
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Fort Scott, KS 66701

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