

N. National & Belltown



Outdoor office

John Freed 54-19-20



Robert Squires 37-8

In the newspaper we saw cows on a roof. That picture was in newspapers all over America,

so Ft. Scott was famous for its flood.



Kay Ballou 26-8

An Exciting Flood

Sarah Christine Horsch

Friday Oct. 6, there was a flood. It lasted until about 4 o'clock Friday night. Still it rained, though not as hard. It rained until Sunday. Friday my dad brought me and my sisters to school, but there was no school because of the flood. So he took us around the town.



Jim Renard 42-2

He took us to see the Red Barn on Highway 54 and you could only see the top of it because of the flood. Then we saw the veterinary clinic and you could only see the top of it, too.



Sharon Hency 04-5

It was exciting to see a flood, but it was not so funny to the people that got hurt. My daddy told us some stories about floods and the things they can do to you.

I felt sorry for the pets at the veterinary clinic. I hope they did not get hurt.

Cows off the roof

Tracy Howard

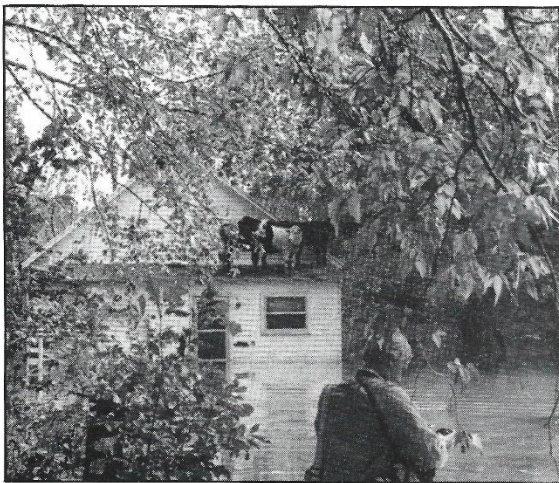
We rode down in Donny Button's truck to his shop when the water had gotten low enough. The water still was way above the pick-up tires but we continued on. There was Donny and a friend riding up front while my fiance Barry, and myself, along with three newspaper reporters rode in the back.



Jerry Simmons 02-5

We stopped at the shop to estimate the damage that had been done. While Donny and Barry looked inside and the reporters took pictures of Bell Town, I proceeded to climb up on the roof of the building to save one of the two cats the Buttons had down at the shop, unfortunately the other cat didn't survive. From the shop we continued up to where Donny's house was on Walnut Hill. While we were looking around we happened to spot four cattle stuck

on top of a porch roof of a house. The reporters thought this was amazing, so they proceeded to take pictures of them. One of the reporters waded to his waist to get some real close ups. When he did this he frightened the cattle. They then tried to climb the steep part of the roof and all of them slipped and fell off into the water. None of the cattle were hurt because the water broke their fall. They then moved to the nearest high ground.



Jerry Simmons 02-4



Jerry Simmons 02-6

Too Much Water

Allison Gorman

I will never forget the flood in Fort Scott, Kansas in 1986. It happened Sunday night. It had been raining the whole week. Monday my Aunt's car was flooded over. A tow truck had to pull it out.



Raymond Brecheisen 52-5-35-A

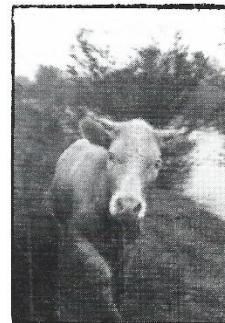


Alice Kane 50-1



George Hudiburg 43-B

My dad got his big truck and took it to his store. He fixed it but they had to take it somewhere else to get other things fixed. My Uncle is a veterinarian. I think he was at the sale barn when it happened. He told the other people that they would have to let the cows out or they would die.

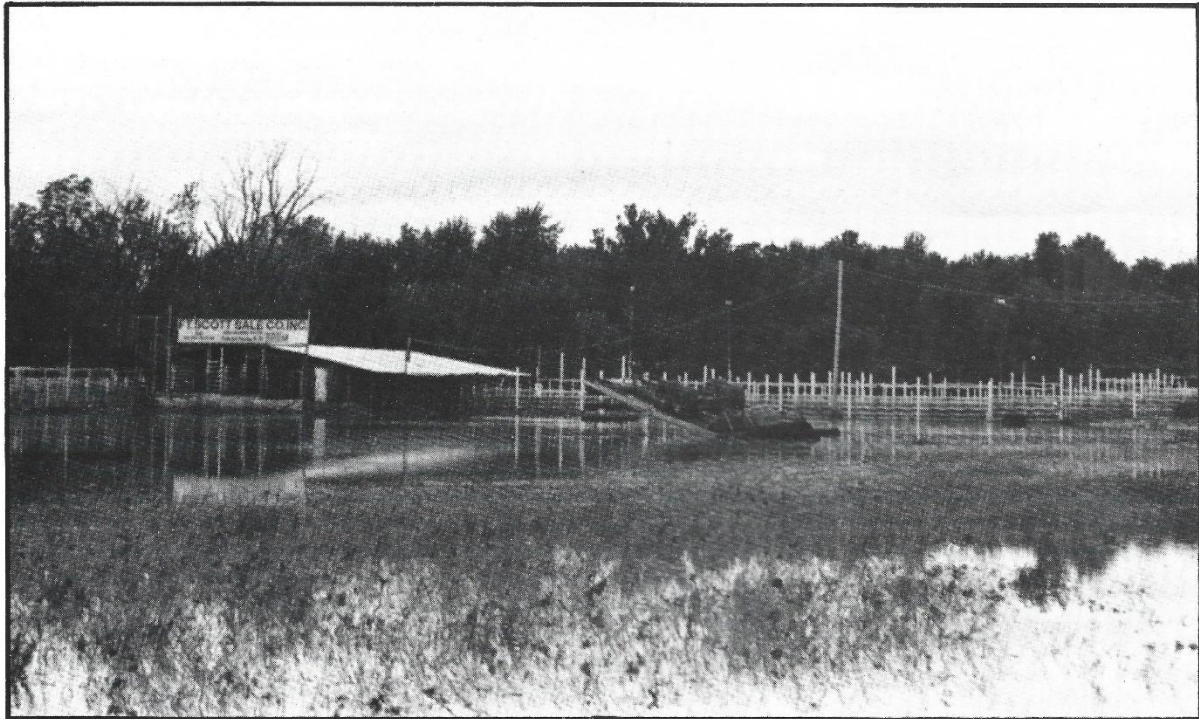


John Freed 54-3-41

So they let 250 cows and some buffalo go out to find land. We saw the buffalo standing on a bridge when we looked at the Marmaton River overflowing.

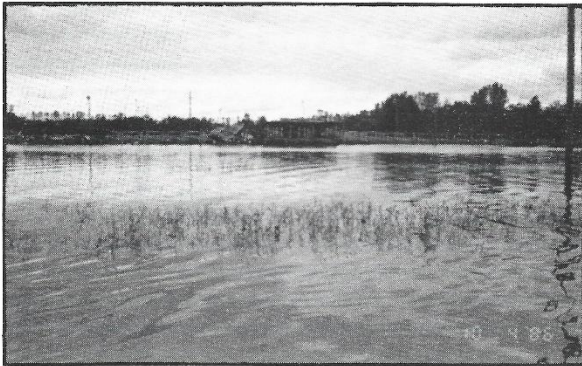


Nathan Lawton 34-6



6 E

John Findley 45-3



Chuck Elliott 58-4

Comanche

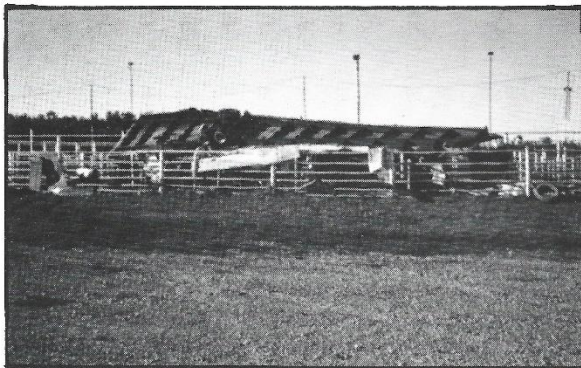
Only Surviving Horse From Fort Scott Sale Barn

Dave Ballou

Interviewed Norman Hazelbaker. The horse is a seven year old quarter horse that was called Sorrely because of his sorrel color.

Sorrely and thirteen other horses were in a thirty acre pasture adjacent to the North side of Fort Scott Sales Company, Inc. When the rising waters made swimming necessary, Sorrely had the good sense to swim West while the other horses went East with the flow, and soon became tangled in vines and trees. Sorrely was found three-fourths of a mile West of the sale barn two days after the flood waters crested (Sunday).

The horses were owned by the Bob Walrod and Norman Hazelbaker families.



Ron Balin 56-19



Dave Ballou 72-1

Sorrely is the pride of Bob Walrod's eight year old son, Jarod. Jarod is a history buff and changed Sorrely's name to Comanche after the flood.

In history, Comanche was a sorrel and the sole surviving Union horse in The Battle of the Little Big Horn.

Todd Madison

At the Sale barn there were cattle all over the place, so we had to saddle up and rope the cattle out of the railroad and put them in their pen again. And then go back for more. Then later they got to go home, and rest.

April Tuchscherer

At the sale barn the people were setting the horses out of the field but they would not go over the gate. At home the water overflowed the bridge. It came up to Mike's knee. The horses' eyes were big and red. And they were scared. The big buffalo got out of the cage. It was very scary.

Motorboating In Belltown!



Circa 1951

Betty Walker 48-21

Photo taken by Jack Fairfield, late Fort Scott reporter.



Circa 1951

Betty Walker 48-20



Date unknown

Betty Walker 48-19

86 Flood

Brent Chance

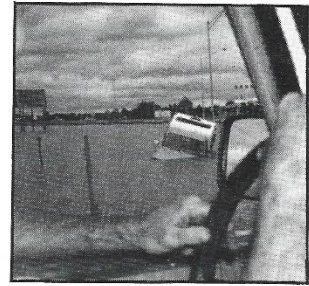
On the last week of September, and the first week of October records were set. Fort Scott received 19.44 inches of rain. Here is just a small story of that record flood.



John Freed 54-1-11

Tossing and turning, Mike Judy, Vice-President of Judy's Iron and Metal, had a feeling of impending disaster. Restless, he finally got up around 4 A.M. on the morning of October 3, 1986. Rushing to town, he hoped to save the computer and other important papers. Shortly after coming to town on

New 54 highway the road was closed due to a truck being swept off the highway. Around 5:30 A.M. Mike drove his truck to the National Street Bridge, which was already covered with the dirty flood water. Mike then went to the fire department trying to get a boat, to save the computer and papers. He got a boat, but he could not get the boat into the water until around 7:00 A.M. The water was so swift that one bystander said, 'I do not look for them to get back alive.' From their boat, Mike, Tom Lewis, and Lawrence Daly heard two employees yelling and hollering. . .



Cheryl Kennedy 60-2



from the Midwestern building. They steered the boat there to see what the employees wanted. They were trapped in the building with no way out. Since the boat was too small to carry them all, Mike and Tom decided to wait in the building.



Chuck Elliott 58-18



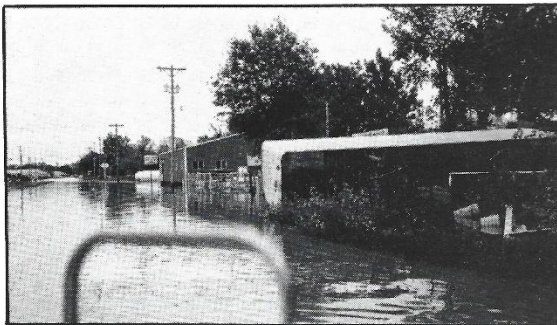
Ron Bolin 56-18

Lawrence, the owner of the boat, took the two men to the other side of the bridge. In the building the water was about waist deep, and so swift that it was pushing the doors wide open. Mike and Tom thought there was a fire in the workshop area of the building.



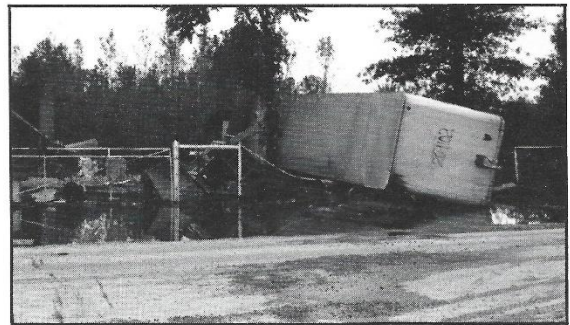
Chuck Elliott 58-2

They started to investigate but instead went to the front of the building. It seemed to them an eternity until Lawrence got back, and then they were on their way to Judy's Iron and Metal. By the time they finally got there the water was to the top of the windows in the office.

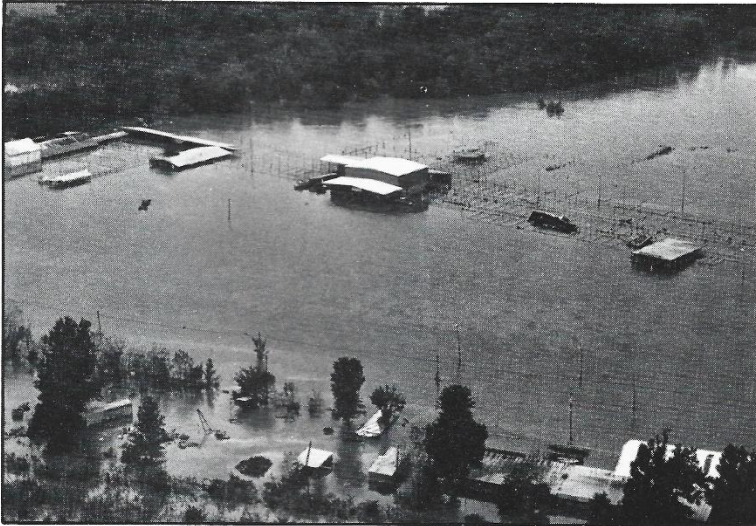


Chuck Elliott 58-8

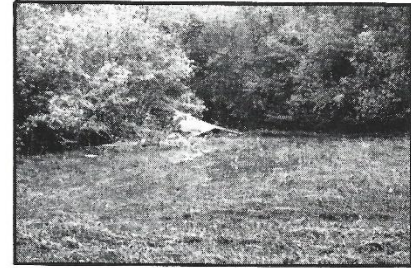
It was too late to save anything-too late.....



Gary Erie 64-33



Topeka Capital Journal 61-4-41



Gary Erie 64-30

The Day It Flooded

Flint Peterson

The day it flooded I went to the sale barn in Fort Scott and saw the dead buffalo lying in the pens.

There were also horses lying in the river. Some had legs missing and heads missing and some were hanging from the trees. Then I went into the barn. The doors were out of line with the rest of the barn. There were cattle still in the stalls. I went back outside to look around. There were cattle lying around in the stands.

The Doc's shack was turned upside down. The dead animal wagon was full of dead animals. The cow-calf buffalo that we were searching for was not among the dead animals. It was nowhere to be found.



Peggy Clark 47-17

I went into the tunnel and picked up papers that were all wet. The computers were in the middle of the room in a big pile. I went back outside. There were refrigerators in the trees. What a mess! What a disaster!



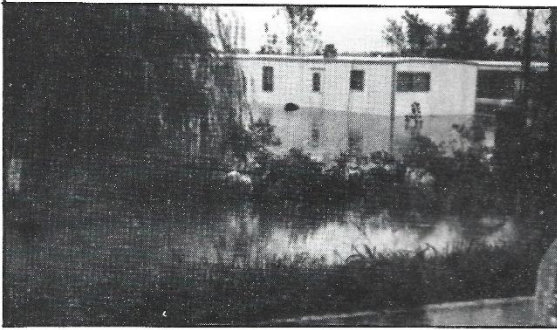
Ran Bolin 56-24



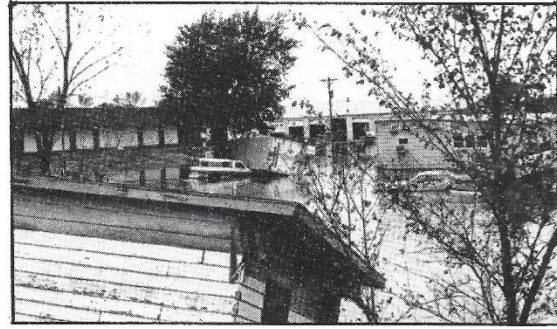
Gary Erie 64-25

Flood of '86

Brenda Wunderly

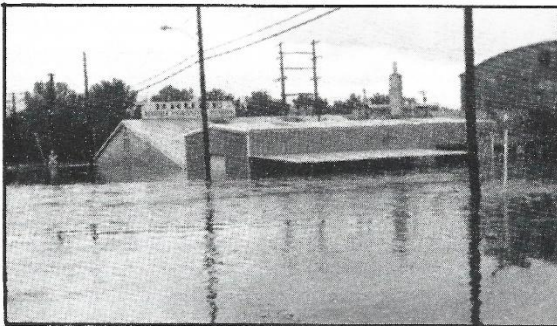


Lucile Young 59-13



Ron Balin 56-21

The flood of 1986 was a dreadful one. It cost many people their homes, cars, and businesses.



George Hudiburg 43-18



Shawn Goans 28-4

It was an awful sight. There was one business lost almost everything. Comstock lumber lost most of its lumber and stuff. The animal shelter had to evacuate.

Some people lost most of their homes. Some are still recovering from it. The Fort Scott Sales Company lost some of their animals. They also lost most of the inside of the barn.



Shawn Goans 28-1



Jerry Simmons 02-10

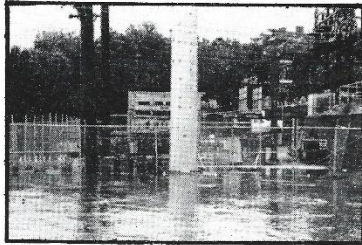


Raymond Brecheisen 52-6-26

The Disaster That Had Volatile Possibilities

Dale Ogran
Fort Scott
Chief of Police

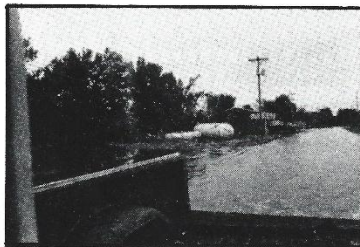
October 1986 will be remembered by most as a time of disaster in Fort Scott. That is a mild proclamation in light of the 'possibilities' that absolutely undated the entire flooded area. A large propane tank in the Bell Town area began spewing its odious load after being toppled by the flood waters. Great respect for the 1,500 gallons of propane was held by all as efforts to reach the Environmental Protection Agency spanned four hours of furious calling.



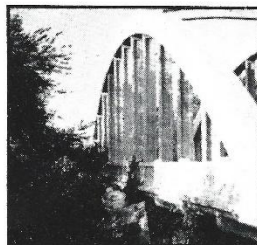
Clete Hall 27-3



Chuck Elliott 58-24



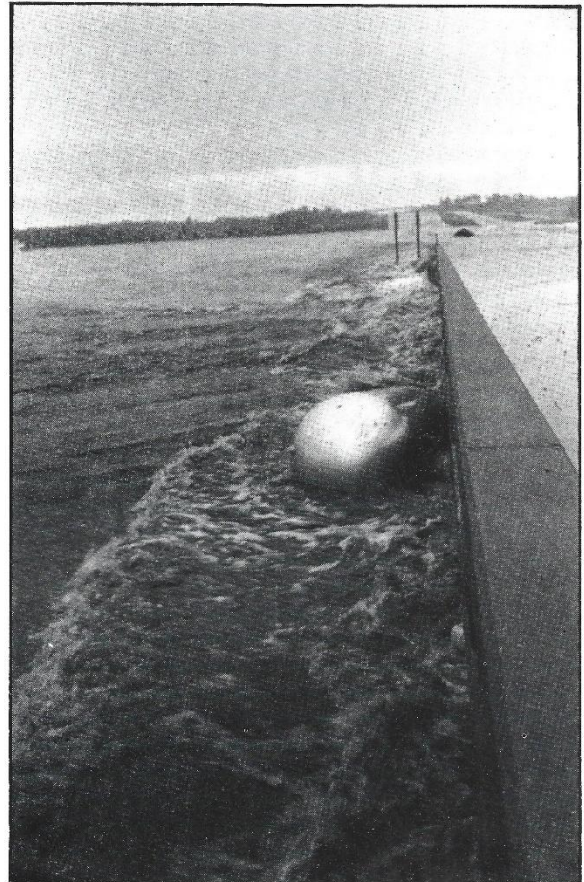
Jahn Findley 45-6



Julie Readinger 17-2
6 L

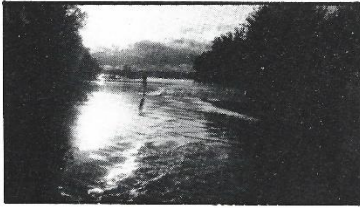


Jahn Findley 45-7



Jahn Freed 54-3-35A

I was told later that had a spark ignited the propane, the larger part of the North end of the City of Fort Scott would have felt the blast and a crater of football field size and many feet deep would have been created at the site of the blast. Volatile to say the least.



Cheryl Kennedy 60-4

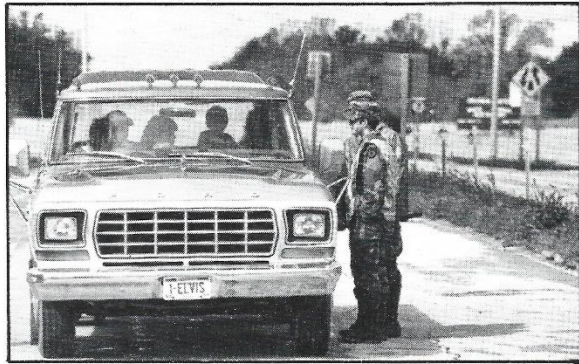
No life was lost, and for that we are thankful; however, the thrust of the water did sweep some adventuring boys into the churning waters. The smell and taste of oil rode the air when you ventured into the East Wall area where petroleum tanks had spilled their cargo. Employees at Key Industries were provided tetnus shots by their employer as the flood aftermath assured the possibility of grave illness as a result of the density of the disaster.



Melissa Albers 03-7

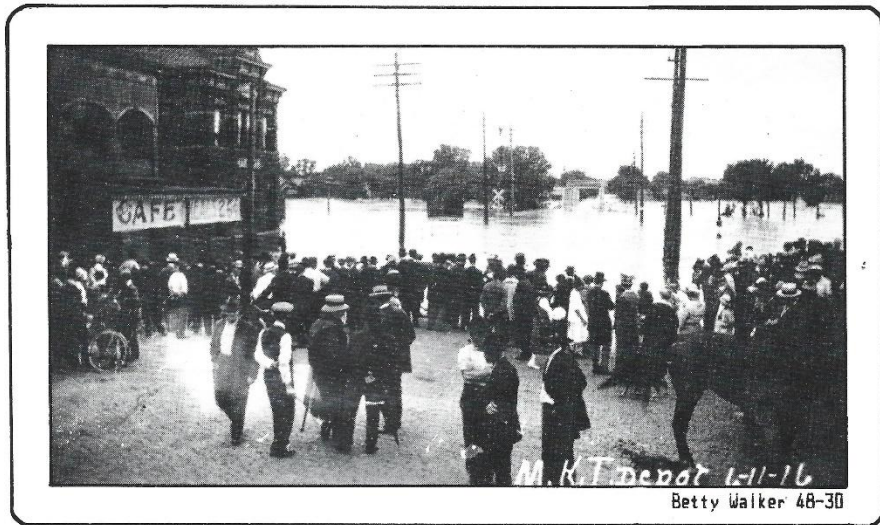


Ray Brecheisen 52-9-10



Ray Brecheisen 52-6-27

The
last
100
year
flood,



Betty Walker 48-30

referred to by citizens who remember it, could not have taken the toll, made possible by this flood, as the chemicals and noxious fumes just were not present.