

# Oklahoma State Highway Dept.

To Mr. Gaines H. Stout

From James Berry

Subject Highwater - Cherokee and vicinity - ~~Alfalfa~~ Cherokee County.

Date July 8, 1963

**RECEIVED**  
JUL 11 1963  
SURVEY DIVISION

**RECEIVED**  
JUL 9 1963  
SURVEY DIVISION

The highwater that occurred in Cherokee and vicinity on June 23, 1963 was caused from a reported 9"-12" rain. There is no weather bureau in Cherokee and the local newspaper reported to me in person, on July 8, 1963 that the rain was 9-12 inches. I talked to many local residents that agreed with this. All of the residents said that their rain gauges only registered to five inches and that they had filled up and they had emptied them and that they were full again after the rain. This rain fell in about six hours.

**RECEIVED**  
JUL 26 1963  
SURVEY DIVISION

I could find no one that had taken pictures of this actual highwater. The Daily Oklahoman sent a newsman to Cherokee to photograph the water about 12 hours after the rain and the water had receded. This picture appeared in the June 24 edition of the Daily Oklahoman and only showed a Mr. Roy Hutchinson of 401 North Penn St. Cherokee shoveling sand in the entrance of the Light and Water plant in Cherokee. There was no water in the photograph.

According to Mr. Orvil McDowell of 520 West Main St. Cherokee, in 1932 the water was much deeper in downtown Cherokee than on June 23, 1963. I also talked to Mr. C. H. McDonald of North Grand Ave, Cherokee who concurred with Mr. McDowell. Both of these men were in Cherokee at the time of the actual highwater in 1932. Both these men said that the water had overflowed from Cottonwood Creek in the North part of Cherokee and caused the highwater, which reached 40 inches in the floor of some of the downtown store buildings.

Since 1932, Cottonwood creek has been diked on both sides of the creek west of Cherokee and the channel has been cleaned out. The dike held during the rain of June 23, 1963, if it had not held, the town of Cherokee would have been flooded again very badly. The dike overflowed on the north part of Cherokee causing overflow across US 64 about 1/4 mile north of the North City Limits of Cherokee worse than the 1932 Highwater, however it did not overflow south into the town of Cherokee, which without this dike in place Cherokee would have undoubtedly been flooded much worse than it was.

July 9, 1963 - McLaughlin

This is approaching the kind of information we need. For instance he does not say on the reports in Cherokee whether the flooding was caused by overflow from Cottonwood Creek or local water from the down pour, that is I am not sure which.

*James Berry*  
James Berry  
Location Engr.

Stout Berry placed this information on reports 7-10-63 me ✓