

Excerpts from Hot Springs Weekly Star
Tuesday, September 6, 1938
Small Portions of Highway 79 are Damaged by Flood

Loss Not Nearly So Great as in Cloudburst of June, 1937

Roaring through its five mile long canyon, Fall river gouged out sections of its bank and small portions of highway 79, as small bridges were swept away by a wall of water Sunday night.

For the most part, damage to farm property along the river was not so great as a year ago, when a cloudburst made of every small gully a full flowing watershed. The Central Electric company dam at the lead of the flume withstood the onslaught and the flume itself was still in position, although it had settled a few inches. State highway department crewmen placed red flags at weakened sections of the river road, but a stream of cars continued along the highway throughout the day without mishap. (Note: many following paragraphs throughout this article have not been copied.)

Torrent of Water Causes Plenty of Excitement

Around 410 Feet of Retaining Wall Falls into River

A torrent of water from Hot and Cold Brooks pouring into Fall river went through Hot Springs and down Fall river canyon to the Cheyenne River Sunday night, tearing away 410 feet of the retaining wall, cutting power from 9:30 o'clock Sunday evening until 4 p.m. Monday, carrying footbridges, washing across the Burlington Northern roadbed and freight yard, washing away land, filling cellars, strewing debris across bridges and roads. Damage was estimated at less than \$25,000.

The rain began easily about 7 o'clock, and shortly after 8 o'clock began coming down heavily. The river rose steadily, without the speed of the '37 flood. By 10 o'clock it was lapping around the pumps of Blatchford's filling station at the corner of River Avenue and Eighth street. Water crossed the sidewalk as far as the Sally shop.

The water started receding shortly after reaching its peak, estimated at a foot higher than last year. It still ran channel full after midnight, muddy, boiling white under the bridges.

The rain extended over a period of three hours, beginning with a mere sprinkle. Water came up one foot higher in town than last year, but it was three feet lower than down the canyon.

A lochleven trout, measuring nineteen inches, met its "water-loo" in the flood Sunday night when it was washed into the basin at the Hot Springs Texaco service station. He was exhibited in the Star office Monday morning by Fire Chief Loren Bingham.