

RIVER STAGES AND FLOODS FOR SEPTEMBER 1946

By C. R. JORDAN

Precipitation during September was heavy in the northern States from the Rocky Mountains eastward to the Great Lakes and in New York. It was also above normal in Arizona, along the Gulf Coast, and along the coastal sections of the middle Atlantic States. More than three times the normal rainfall was reported in central Arizona, southern Texas, and western South Dakota. It was dry from Texas and Oklahoma northeastward through Missouri, the Ohio Valley, and the southern Lakes region; and along the Pacific Coast.

A severe flood occurred on the San Antonio River in Texas, and some light overflow was reported in the Missouri River tributaries in Kansas. Only light flooding was reported at a few scattered points elsewhere throughout the country.

*Missouri Basin.*—Flood stages were reached on the Republican, Solomon, Smoky Hill, and Saline Rivers in Kansas on one or more occasions during September. The Republican River reached light to moderate flood stages to below Clay Center, Kans., on the 6-7th and again on the 14-15th.

Severe overflow occurred along the Solomon River on the 8th and again from the 15-20th. At Beloit, Kans., where the bankfull stage is 18 feet, a crest of 29.3 feet occurred on the 8th, and 28.6 on the 15th. At Minneapolis, Kans., a crest of 31.9 feet, 5.9 feet above bankfull occurred on the 8th. This was one of the greatest overflows of record at Minneapolis. At Niles, a crest of 30.12 feet occurred on the 8th, one of the greatest overflows of record for that point. Considerable damage was done to growing crops, highways, and bridges.

The Smoky Hill River also overflowed moderately from Abilene to its mouth from the 10th to the 14th.

The Saline River overflowed twice at Tescott, with a crest of 29.1 feet on the 9th and another of 26.8 on the 15th. The crest on the 9th was one of the highest stages ever reached; there was considerable damage to crops, highways, and bridges.

*Flood in Texas.*—The greatest flood since September 1921 occurred in the vicinity of San Antonio, Tex. Several lives were lost and property damage amounted to several millions of dollars. On September 25, excessive rainfall occurred over most sections of San Antonio, with a 24-hour measurement of 3.33 inches at the Weather Bureau office. Again on Sept. 26-27, heavy rainfall fell in San Antonio, with 6.93 inches measured at the Weather Bureau office. Most of the rain, 6.61 inches, fell within a period of 8 hours, from 8 p. m., Sept. 26, to 4 a. m., Sept. 27. Reliable measurements at other points indicate that

heavier amounts fell over the central and south sections of the city. It is estimated that about 11.50 inches of rainfall occurred over the larger portion of the city. The Olmos Dam, built after the 1921 flood, saved much of the business district of the city from heavy flooding. The U. S. Geological Survey reports that the peak of the flood at their gaging station in San Antonio was 15.3 feet as compared with a peak of 20.14 feet in 1941.

Several uncontrolled creeks caused serious damage to property in sections of the city. At Falls City, downstream from San Antonio, the river reached a record stage, 5.4 feet higher than the flood of 1921. Precipitation was not so heavy below Falls City, and the intensity of the flood crest lessened as it moved downstream.

FLOOD STAGE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 1946

[All dates in September unless otherwise specified]

River and station	Flood stage	Above flood stages— dates		Crest <sup>1</sup>	
		From—	To—	Stage	Date
<b>ATLANTIC SLOPE DRAINAGE</b>					
Waccamaw: Conway, S. C.....	Feet 7	Aug. 31	-----	Feet 7.6	3
<b>MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM</b>					
<i>Upper Mississippi Basin</i>					
Raccoon: Van Meter, Iowa.....	13	8	9	16.2	9
<i>Missouri Basin</i>					
Solomon:					
Beloit, Kans.....	18	{ 7	11	29.3	8
		{ 14	16	28.6	15
Minneapolis, Kans.....	26	{ 7	13	31.9	8
		{ 18	18	27.9	18
Niles, Kans.....	24	{ 7	14	30.1	8
		{ 18	20	27.4	20
Saline: Tescott, Kans.....	25	{ 7	11	29.1	9
		{ 15	16	26.8	15
Smoky Hill:					
Abilene, Kans.....	22	9	15	{ 25.5	10
				{ 25.6	12
Enterprise, Kans.....	26	10	15	28.9	13-14
Republican:					
Guide Rock, Nebr.....	10	{ 7	7	10.9	7
		{ 14	14	10.9	14
Scandia, Kans.....	10	{ 7	7	10.2	7
		{ 14	14	10.6	14
Concordia, Kans.....	8	{ 7	7	8.8	7
		{ 14	14	8.2	14
Clay Center, Kans.....	15	{ 7	9	18.6	7
		{ 15	15	15.2	15
Wakefield, Kans.....	11	7	8	11.0	7
<b>WEST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE</b>					
San Antonio: Falls City, (nr) Tex.....	12	{ Aug. 30	1	15.7	Aug. 31
		{ 27	29	33.8	29
Guadalupe:					
Gonzales, Tex.....	20	Aug. 30	Aug. 31	22.4	Aug. 31
Cuero, Tex.....	23	1	1	23.1	1
Victoria, Tex.....	21	{ Aug. 31	4	27.5	3
		{ 29	(?)		
Nueces: Three Rivers, Tex.....	37	Aug. 31	2	38.5	1

<sup>1</sup> Provisional.  
<sup>2</sup> Continued at end of month.