

# Flood of June 16, 1965

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Flood of June 16, 1965

**Collection Group:** Emergency Preparedness

**Dates:** 1965-1966

**Location:** *Archives BK2*

**Quantity:** 1 Box

**Abstract:** On June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1965, severe thunderstorms hit Eastern Colorado. The city of Aurora was also hit by a tornado. Subsequent damage to roads, public utilities, and bridges (especially at Peoria and 30<sup>th</sup>) ran to roughly \$300,000. This collection covers the application process for state emergency relief funds allocated by House Bill 1002, including receipts, work orders, and payroll records needed for an state audit of expenses. City of Aurora Director of Civil Defense Mr. O. James Murray was appointed as the city's representative in July 1965, and most correspondence in the file takes place between Murray and the State Natural Disaster Coordinator Major General Joe C. Moffitt and Deputy Coordinator James L. Rappe.

**Arrangement:** The collection is maintained in its original order as best as possible. The series is headed by documents pertaining to the original cost estimates and documents justifying each work project. The remainder of the collection is then organized by line items in the state's emergency fund application. Line 1/"A" corresponds to debris clearance. Line 2/"B" corresponds to preventative health measures. Line 3/"C" is the largest subseries, describing work on roads and bridges. Lines 4, 5, and 6 ("D," "E," and "F") outline expenses for dikes and levees, public buildings, and utilities in that order. "Basic" refers to original fund applications regarding damage which happened on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1965. "Supplemental" refers to additional application materials submitted in regards to recurrent flooding in July 1965, after the president extended the time frame for emergency relief.

## Contents

### Series and Subseries

#### Box 1 of 1

#### Series 1: State Emergency Relief Fund application

**Folder 1:** Paperwork starts right after the flooding in June 1965 with the first expense reports from the Water Department. Mr. O. James Murray is appointed to handle all dealings with the state during the application. Various health authorities vouch that certain projects are necessary for public health, and early cost estimates are made for each line item for the City in Adams, Douglas, and Jefferson Counties. An initial application is

submitted in August 1965, later amended with project C-16 after the president expanded the emergency dates. Final budgets for each line are included at the end.

**Subseries 1A: Line 1/"A": "Basic" or "Debris Clearance":**

**Folder 2:** Itemized equipment costs, street department payroll records, state inspection papers and official correspondence between Aurora Director of Civil Defense O. James Murray and State Natural Disaster Coordinator (Deputy) Col. Rappe.

**Subseries 2A: Line 2/"B" – Preventative Health Measures**

**Folder 3:** Sanitation and Utility Department payroll records and itemized equipment costs related to the pumping of four basements. Memos from the Tri-county inspector for Environmental Health Field Services. Correspondence between Murray and Col. Rappe

**Sub-subseries 2B: Supplemental**

**Folder 4:** Supplemental application information for additional labor costs.

**Folder 5:** Marked copy of payroll costs from the state department of accounting and controls.

**Subseries 3A: Line 3/"C" – Road and Bridge Repairs**

**Folder 6:** Basic application materials, including itemized cost breakdowns of the three eligible projects: rebuilding the Peoria bridge and a temporary detour, repairing the road at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sable, and road repairs along East Mississippi. Letter from Hayward Miller, Director of Public Works, regarding the costs and timeline for building a temporary bridge at Peoria.

**Folder 7:** June and July equipment, material, and labor costs of repairing the bridge at Peoria, including contracted services.

**Folder 8:** equipment and material costs for repairs at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sable

**Folder 9:** Equipment and material costs for repairs at East Mississippi

**Sub-subseries 3B: Supplemental**

**Folder 10:** Supplemental application materials

**Folder 11:** Payroll records, equipment rental costs, and material costs for Peoria Street by-pass

**Folder 12:** Payroll records for Peoria Street by-pass

**Folder 13:** Vehicle expenses used for Peoria Street by-pass

**Folder 14:** Vehicle expenses and street department time records (Peoria bridge?)

**Folder 15:** Payroll records for Peoria Street bridge and walkway

**Folder 16:** Barricade rentals for Peoria Street repairs

**Folder 17:** Payroll records, equipment rental costs, and material costs for East Mississippi repairs

**Subseries 4A: Line 4/"D" – Dikes and Levee repairs**

**Folder 18:** Document stating that debris is on private property and must be handled by the owner at no cost to city

**Subseries 5A: Line 5/"E" – Public Buildings**

**Folder 19:** Payroll records related to cleaning and moving materials in the library. Letter from Murray to Rappe stating that this is the first category submitted for state inspection and auditing.

**Subseries 6A: Line 6/"F" – Utilities**

**Folder 20:** Equipment costs and payroll records for repairs to water pipes, a sewer main, and the road to the Cherry Creek well field

**Sub-subseries 6B: Supplemental**

**Folder 21:** Letter from Murray to District Engineer E. N. Haase, Colorado Department of Highways regarding reimbursement for repairs made to a city-owned sewer line. Labor, equipment, and materials costs provided by the highway department. Correspondence between Murray and Rappe.

**Folder 22:** Supplemental payroll and material costs breakdowns for repairs to Gillen Well, Cherry Creek banks and vaults, and Arapahoe Roads.

**Subseries 7A: Final Fund Application documents**

**Folder 22:** Final itemized report from State auditor authorizing \$129,543.39

**Folder 23:** Audit for contracted services (Lawrence Construction, Strait Lumber, and the engineering department)

**Folder 24:** Blank certificates and basic application reminders, early 1966

**Folder 25:** Overall Supplement application pertaining to a follow-up flood in July 1965. (Detailed line costs and documentation included in line item subseries above).

**Folder 26:** Miscellanea between State Controller, State Natural Disaster coordinator and the City

**Additional Flood of June 16, 1965 items in other collections:**

○

**Books in Aurora History Museum Library:**

**Books in Aurora Public Library:**