

Kaw Valley flood

This silent film shows footage of the Kansas River flooding in Topeka, Kansas, in 1951. Filmed by Steve Smith. The 1951 flooding of the Missouri and Kansas rivers and their tributaries resulted in one of the most devastating natural disasters to strike the Midwest. The flood lent support to the Pick-Sloan plan authorized by Congress in the Flood Control Act of 1944. The plan called for a series of large dams and levees on rivers in the Missouri River basin. Many Kansas farmers opposed building large dams and reservoirs, favoring control through small dams and conservation practices. Photographed by Steve Smith and John Blevens.

Creator: Smith, Steve

Date: 1951

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