

ROCK FALLS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2008
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Riverside Drive

The floodwaters that rolled along the Shell Rock River in the spring of 2008 came and went rather quickly. Fortunately, the flooding caused very little damage to homes and property within Rock Falls.

However, a piece of city infrastructure sustained enough damage to be placed out of commission for most of the summer. Riverside Drive, located along the west bank of the Shell Rock River, experienced flood waters from a small tributary such that the surface became impassable. The large steel culvert that passes under the street was not capable of carrying the amount of water that flowed along the little creek. That little creek reportedly collects surface water from some 1500 acres south and west of Rock Falls.

The county engineer conducted a study and determined that a proper repair should include a much larger drainage tube under the street. It was decided to replace the steel culvert with a 6x10 precast concrete encasement. Such a tube should be able to withstand all the 100-year floods that have been occurring recently.

Replacement of the tube required a considerable amount of coordination. The engineer's office needed to acquire a cost proposal of the encasement to determine financial feasibility. Then FEMA needed to provide an on-site inspection and render an approval to conduct the project. A plumbing excavation contractor was engaged to re-route the pressurized sewer main that layed within the path of excavation.

Block Party for Street Opening



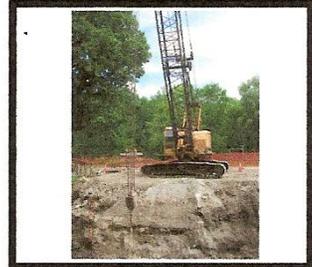
The opening of Riverside Drive was a huge event for the residents who live nearby. They decided that a celebration would

be in order. Therefore, a block party was held for the Sunday after Fun Days. Over 25 people gathered on the street and brought huge amounts of salads, meats, casseroles, munchies, and desserts. Lots of conversation ensued, mostly regarding the toughness of character of everyone following the prolonged street

Once the new encasement was delivered, a small army of county road construction workers began moving machinery and material onto a formerly very quiet Riverside Drive. Removal of the steel culvert required excavating a trench of more than twelve feet deep. Following removal of the culvert, a layer of stone was placed and packed into the trench as a base for the new encasement. A large crane was needed to hoist and position the sections of the encasement. It was necessary for Alliant Energy to disconnect power lines in the area to allow the crane maximum maneuverability. Once settled into place, the encasement was cuddled with soil and riprap. Then a layer of roadstone was put into place for normal street traffic. Final paving will be delayed

until the project has a chance to properly settle.

Residents who live along Riverside Drive have breathed a sigh of relief since they can now travel into and out of the area at will. Until the project was reopened, a trip by auto to downtown Rock Falls and back required driving sixteen miles. Mail service and newspaper delivery had been nonexistent most of the summer. Looking at the positive, residents enjoyed a very quiet street all summer and got additional exercise in walking and biking.



closure. The block party drew to a close toward darkness with Phil Bly demonstrating his pyrotechnical skills with a few shots over the Shell Rock river. Everyone agreed that it shouldn't take another natural disaster to get together on the street for food and fun. It should be an annual affair. Block parties are great events to catch up on news.