

Interocean flood is April photo feature

Written by Holyoke Enterprise



It's good to know that even the early settlers in Holyoke had a sense of humor, because the flood waters on Interocean Avenue apparently caused need for a makeshift boat and paddles, and of course, a photo opportunity. Enterprise staff found this photo at Phillips County Museum for the April feature in the 125th anniversary calendar. Records at the museum said the three men in the boat are Slater, Schulen and Dr. Smith, but unfortunately there was no date attached to the photo.

Perhaps it was the April flood of 1912, but staff members are uncertain. That month Phillips County was a lake of water because of rapidly melting snow. The Frenchman Creek was a torrent of water, 200 yards wide at Holyoke. Records state the wagon bridge was washed out at one end and roads were impassable.

Just in case this flood doesn't ring a bell, most will remember the last major flood of recent history, the June 15 Father's Day flood in 1997, when a slow-moving storm dumped six inches of rain on Holyoke. The massive amount of water ran out of places to go, ending up flooding houses, highways and county roads. Many long-time residents saw water running where they never had before.

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