

And the rains came! And did they ever! We went to bed one night and the next morning the ponds were nearly full. Who would have thought? The rains came and about the time the guys had the roads back in shape, we would get another good one, and do it all over again.

We lost a lot of road material when the ditches could not carry the amount of water we would get all at once, and it would run over the road. We also lost two big tin horns. One across Pecan Road between 97th and 112th Streets and one on Meers-Porter Hill Road between 277 and 287 Roads. The tin horns cannot be installed when a foot or so of water is running through. Therefore, we have had to keep those roads closed until water recedes.

Before the rains started, the road crew worked on getting Airport Road between Coombs and Pecan Roads ready to oil and chip. They have Paint Road starting at the railroad tracks going north to the Cache Cemetery to mill and get ready to oil and chip. We have about 12 miles of roads that are scheduled to be oil and chipped this summer.

We had the ribbon cutting ceremony for 112th Street this past month. The road is complete only lacking the establishment of sod on the north end where the rains washed it out. But that did not dampen the celebration of a major project that involved the State, County and City and we all felt a sense of pride in this project.

We responded to a request from the Town of Faxon officials to patch some of their streets and to furnish several loads of dirt on which to build a pad and a fire station. Chattanooga VFD has agreed to put a substation in the Town of Faxon. Our road crew recycled and shaped several more streets in Chattanooga to be oiled and chipped at a later date.

We had a plan-in-hand meeting with CEC Engineering and a representative from the utilities company on our Boulder Creek Bridge project on Airport Road between Cache and Gore Roads. The environmental review is about completed and we have had the primary review of the bridge plans. The next step is to acquire the necessary easement and move the utilities. If all goes well construction will begin next summer.

We helped out the fairgrounds by removing the woodchips from the coliseum following the stock show.

If you have questions or concerns, I can be contacted at don.hawthorne@comanchecounty.us or you may phone the Courthouse or County Barn and I will return your call.

ADDEMDUM to the Road and Bridge Report

I had written the Road and Bridge Report Saturday morning, and my editor (a.k.a. wife) had reviewed it.

In the early evening, we were watching radar and noticed that even though it was not raining in Cache, it seemed to hang over the mountains, and we turned on the scanner and heard that Panther Creek and Buford Lake were flooding. My wife began to notify all the folks whose numbers we knew that lived along Cache Creek to warn them of the possibility of flood water.

Later in the evening, we began to hear that Shady Lane in Cache was flooding. I heard the Cache Fire Chief call dispatch requesting a front-end loader from Comanche County District 3. I called Road Forman Kenny Kinder, who had also heard the request and called Arnold Fischer, Flint Runyan, Mark Barefoot and Melvin Beeson to take the loaders to Shady Lane to see if they could help. Carl Mullins and Brad Jones also reported to the County Barn to see where they could help.

After the water started to subside, the loaders were used to clear the logs and other debris from Cache Road between Cache Creek and Rock Creek Bridges. In addition to rescuing a number of people with the front end loader from Shady Lane and Rock Creek, the guys also helped save a young girl who had been hanging in a tree limb over rushing water for over two hours.

Kenny and the crew got home about daylight, just in time to put on some dry clothes and we started getting phone calls about washed out and damaged roads. The calls were coming in very fast and they were taking the time of the Road Forman. I asked Debbie McDonald and John Mark Fisher to set up a clearing house to receive calls and track road closures at the County Barn. I called dispatch to have the calls routed to the County Barn.

Kenny and 14 of our guys were out Sunday until about 6 or 7 in the evening working opening up roads and making the roads and bridges as safe as possible. They were out again Monday morning continuing to work on opening and fixing severely damaged and unsafe roads.

The County workers deserve a lot of credit. I have not worked with a more dedicated bunch of individuals, and I am proud to be associated with them.