

ROADS

Stone and Cement Set to Guard Bear Creek Road **Walls Equal Solid Cube Four Stories** **High and 125 Feet Square**

Enough masonry to build a solid cube the size of a four-story building measuring 125 feet by 125 feet is being placed in the retaining walls along Bear Creek Canon between Morrison and Starbuck to provide a flood-proof roadway.

The man-made barriers of masonry and cement are the major phase of a \$436,588 WPA project in reconstructing the highway washed away in the September flood.

Tons of cement and rock blasted from the canon are being used in erecting the retaining walls which are intended to turn back high waters from the roadbed.

Approximately 4,500 feet of masonry rubble walls are being build at points where full force of the waters strike the roadway.

The walls will range from seven to 34 feet in height and from three and one-half to 17 feet in width at the base.

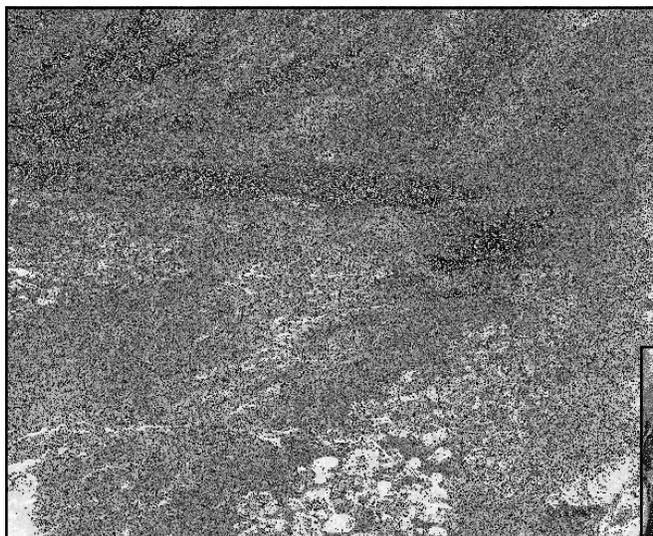
The walls are being built in solid rock foundations, ranging from five to 15 feet below the present bed of the creek.

Laying of the masonry is requiring more than 630,000 pounds of cement. Thirty percent of the masonry work has been completed, and nearly 30 percent of the excavations are finished. More than 48,000 cubic yards of dirt and rock have been moved in preparing foundations and widening the roadway.

Blasting has been necessary to provide a shelf for the highway, which will be 40 feet wide. The flood washed away more than half of the old roadbed in many places.

Original photo caption: WPA workers reconstruct Bear Creek Canon roadway
Tons of masonry go in fortification against future floods. [photo not available]

Article from *Rocky Mountain News*, Sunday May 28, 1939



“The flood washed away more than half of the old roadbed in many places.”

Photo left: Bear Creek Canyon after the flood of September 5, 1938.

Photo below (unknown location):
Men gather around a pile of shovels and sledgehammers at a Work Projects Administration (WPA) sponsored road construction site in Colorado.

