



25 years ago: Boat trip on the Kaw ends in tragedy

From the Lawrence Daily Journal-World for April 17, 1987:

The rain-swollen Kansas River, with its high water levels and treacherous currents, on this day claimed the life of a Lawrence man whose boat had gone over the Bowersock Dam. Elmer Wolford and his fishing companion Ricky Franks had borrowed the aluminum boat from a friend to float down the Delaware to the Kaw. After going over the dam, Franks had later come to the surface and had floated downstream for about a quarter-mile before being able to pull himself out of the water. Wolford was considered missing for many days as rescue teams attempted to discover his fate.

The United Way of Douglas County had allocated \$506,942 to 22 area agencies in the previous year. This year, those agencies plus two new organizations were requesting \$619,551. The largest increase request had come from the Douglas County Children's Development Association, which was seeking \$60,000, a 94 percent boost from the amount requested last year.