

MEMORANDUM

Investigation of sinking hole near intersection of
Orenco road and Baseline road, morning, May 20, 1953.

The hole in question is located about 150 feet southwest of a cement-brick house being built by R. W. Simpson, NW/NE sec. 3, T. 1 S., R. 2 W. At this point Rock Creek changes direction in a fairly sharp meander. The hole is about 6 feet in diameter, about 10 feet from the edge of the stream and 10 feet above the surface of the water. It is apparently being caused by water erosion from beneath the surface. Simpson claims considerable material has been thrown into the hole, but it constantly sinks. The area was searched to find possible sources of the subsurface water. A 10-inch drain from the Baseline road drainage ditch runs through the field and enters Rock Creek about 20 feet west of the hole. It is apparently open and has no connection with the hole.

The most probable cause is Rock Creek which could build up enough pressure during high water to create an underground water current sufficient to erode the fine, sandy soil which is present to considerable depth in this area.

Suggested solutions: (1) plant rapid growing trees in the hole to halt erosion, or (2) cut off meander by re-channeling Rock Creek.

Report to Simpson verbal.

Investigation and memo by L.R.

